



**Living on the wild side**  
How a little danger can add taste to a bite of life  
Magnus Linklater, page 17

**Chief Executive**



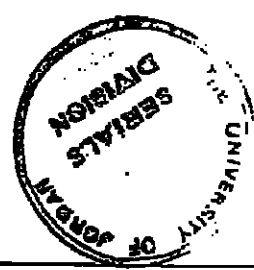
**Jobs bonanza**  
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**Homosexuality and the church**  
Self denial is an essential part of Christian morality, says Janet Daley, page 18

20P

# THE TIMES



No. 65,210

THURSDAY MARCH 9 1995

Major warned of Brussels pitfalls

## No 10 memo urges caution on Europe

By PETER RIDDELL

A LEAKED Whitehall paper has cast serious doubts on John Major's hopes of giving Westminster a bigger say over Brussels.

The Prime Minister seems certain to run into opposition from more centrist countries such as Belgium and Germany, and the European Parliament, according to a confidential briefing paper prepared for a senior Cabinet minister.

Ministers are warned that any attempt to strengthen the powers of national parliaments over Brussels through amendments to the Treaty of Rome would be "fraught with difficulty". Mr Major and his colleagues are advised to "tread carefully in this area".

The note spells out the Government's options for the critical inter-governmental conference on the future of the European Union to be held next year.

Mr Major is committed to exploring ways of enhancing the role of national parliaments. In other areas, too, the confidential note emphasises potential pitfalls and problems in heading off calls for further centralisation.

The leaked document is a civil service briefing note for a senior minister on the Cabinet's committee on Europe, known as OPD (E), which is meeting regularly to refine Britain's negotiating position. The note comments on a Cabinet Office paper about possible options that can be worked up to present at the conference.

This disclosure will be seized upon by the Conservative Euro-sceptics who are wary of any hint of further integration. They are pressing for an assertion of the role of the House of the Commons over European matters and a reduction in the power of the Strasbourg Parliament.

The note says that "building up a formal role for national parliaments through treaty amendment would not only be fraught with difficulty but



Hurd: he chairs cabinet committee on Europe

would tend to require inputs from parliaments which are significantly more integrationist than Westminster.

It seems advisable, the officials add, "to tread carefully in this area, avoiding treaty amendments wherever possible in favour of practical steps designed to enable the United Kingdom Parliament to enhance its role in European affairs".

The European committee is chaired by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and has 11 other Cabinet members as well as the Attorney-General. It includes pro-Europeans such as Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine and sceptics such as Michael Portillo and John Redwood.

The briefing note is cautious about the scope for achieving UK aims. Even in the area of practical steps to give the UK Parliament a greater role, it states that "the price to be paid by ministers in giving Westminster an enhanced role must be weighed against the likely limited success of any initiative in blunting a campaign for enhanced powers for the European Parliament".

The officials say that "there can be no objection to entrenching some aspects of the Maastricht subsidiarity declaration in the body of the treaty. But in practice much will depend on the scrutiny procedures adopted by individual parliaments".

The official note is also sceptical about the scope for

involving national parliaments in achieving subsidiarity, or returning powers now exercised at a European level back to a national level. "Despite a general wish to bring national parliaments into the frame, it seems highly doubtful whether the involvement of 16 parliaments in testing subsidiarity would in practice lead to a more positive outcome in individual cases."

The whole emphasis of the Government's policy is how to avoid further integrationist pressures. The note says "there is no doubt that there will be pressure from a number of quarters to adjust the institutional balance of the treaty in favour of the European Parliament".

The UK will wish to oppose any developments which would adjust the institutional balance. To that end the (Cabinet Office) paper focuses on the possibility of working up ideas which would deflect this pressure, by giving the European Parliament increased authority in relation to financial management, while seeking ways to enhance democratic legitimacy through the involvement of national parliaments instead of the European Parliament.

The Cabinet's European committee is considering a variety of areas: the number of European commissioners, management and efficiency of the Commission, subsidiarity, deregulation, powers of the European Parliament, role of the national parliaments, common foreign and security policy, and justice and home affairs.

The UK Government is likely to propose a treaty amendment "requiring the Commission to take account of competitiveness and burdens on business when proposing new legislation and other elements of a deregulation initiative. This would be worthwhile and easy to present positively to a wider audience in the UK, particularly the business community".

Diary, page 18



Fletcher, sacked as manager yesterday, was never comfortable in the spotlight

## Fletcher makes way for Illingworth as manager

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

KEITH FLETCHER, the England cricket team manager, yesterday paid the price for the disastrous tour of Australia when he was sacked halfway through his five-year contract.

Fletcher, 50, was told of the decision by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) on a family skiing holiday in the French Alps. Paying him off will cost the TCCB £100,000 for the remaining two and a half years of his contract. Under Fletcher's management, England have won five of 26 Test matches, lost 15 and been beaten in four out of six series.

Alan Smith, the TCCB chief executive, said yesterday: "We have to look elsewhere for a man to rekindle the pride and the passion in playing for England."

Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, will manage the team this summer against West Indies, on the tour of South Africa later this year, and in the World Cup which follows in India and Pakistan.

At an age when most people are preparing for retirement, he has been given the job he values above all others. Illingworth, 63, captain of England between 1969 and

1973, could have had the manager's job eight years ago. At the time he felt it did not carry sufficient responsibility so it went to Micky Stewart.

Illingworth will have a new selector to work with, David Graveney, the newly appointed general secretary of the Cricketers' Association, the players' trade union, was elected in place of Brian Bolus, one of Illingworth's "starred" candidates. The selectors will meet next month to appoint a captain, presumably Michael Atherton.

England scapegoat, page 48

## Government admits it knew power price curbs planned

By PHILIP WEBSTER, ROSS TIEMAN AND MARTIN WALLER

THE Government was facing the threat of legal action from aggrieved shareholders last night after disclosing that it considered calling off its latest electricity sale as late as last Friday because it knew that new curbs on power prices were under consideration.

As it faced new accusations of insider trading, it also emerged that a parliamentary inquiry into the regulation of the electricity industry and the actions of Stephen Littlechild, its regulator, will be announced today.

The investigation by the Trade and Industry Select Committee reflects deepening concern at the failings of the regulatory regime.

It comes after Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Treasury had on Friday consulted lawyers and financial advisers on the sell-off and cleared the prospectus with the electricity regulator. "Having done that, we took the decision to proceed," he said.

It appeared that neither Downing Street nor the Department of Trade and Industry was aware of the discussions, but there were clear signs in the Government of irritation with Professor Littlechild over the timing of his review announcement.

The disclosure prompted an allegation from John Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, last night that the Government was guilty of insider trading. "It is now quite clear that the Government knew of Professor Stephen Littlechild's intention to reconsider the pricing controls. That comes under the heading of inside information in Section 56 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993."

In the Commons, Dr Cunningham said that in withholding that information, ministers and officials were

guilty of absolute negligence or complete dishonesty in their handling of the affair. Last night Dr Cunningham and his advisers were considering whether there was a case for referring the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Electricity utility shares were still reeling from Tuesday's statement by Professor Littlechild. In spite of a partial late recovery, widespread losses stretched to £1 for some stocks, giving a two-day retreat of more than £2 for some.

It was disclosed yesterday that the Government's City advisers had considered the impact of Professor Littlechild's review. But Kleinwort Benson and BZW, the two investment banks co-ordinating the offer, concluded

Letters ..... 19  
Shares fall ..... 25  
Pennington ..... 27

ed that the prospectus for the generators' sale was complete, and that the sell-off should go ahead after consultations with Professor Littlechild.

More than a million private investors bought shares in National Power and PowerGen only to find themselves facing losses when prices fell below the offer price after the announcement.

Sir George rejected the accusation of insider trading when he appeared on *The World at One* on BBC Radio 4. But he admitted that the Treasury had consulted Slaughter and May, the lawyers, and Kleinwort Benson and BZW before deciding whether to go ahead.

On Lancashire businessmen said yesterday he was suing the Treasury and its advisers. More worrying for the Government is the threat that one of the big institutional buyers might take action.

## Bundesbank tries to calm markets

By GEORGE SYVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Bundesbank tried to calm the troubled foreign exchange markets yesterday by declaring that the current currency turmoil was not justified.

The rare public declaration from Frankfurt was intended to support both the Italian lira

and the French franc. The French had already raised their interest rates yesterday to deter speculators.

Bundesbank officials said: "In the common aim of achieving monetary stability, the Bundesbank will continue to co-operate closely with the European central banks." The Germans also believe that the "current dollar weakness is a temporary phenomenon and the dollar rate will rise again".

Signs that central banks were trying to resolve the currency crisis helped the pound. It plunged from Tuesday's close of DM2.2604 to a new trading low of DM2.2205 before rallying to DM2.2489 at the official close. Against the dollar, the pound slipped a little from \$1.6242 to \$1.6220, and the dollar managed to stabilise at around the 90-yen level.

At midday trading in New York it had risen to 91.20 yen after tumbling through the 90-yen level to 89.65 on Tuesday. In a further sign that the speculators were retreating from their attack on the dollar, the American currency rose against the mark from DM1.3675 to DM1.3925.

Currency turmoil, page 25  
Pennington, page 27  
Anatole Kalesky, page 29



Richard Hogan, Managing Director

## Signature at inquiry centre

This signature, allegedly forged by Nick Leeson on a letter purporting to come from Richard Hogan, the Wall Street financier, forms the basis of Singapore's attempt to extradite him for trial.

Mr Leeson says he is willing to tell the Serious Fraud Office all he knows in the hope that he will be charged and extradited to Britain. Page 2  
Business News, page 25

## Karachi killings

Two Americans were killed by terrorists in Karachi when gunmen fired on their minibus. President Clinton said he did not expect the deaths to alter the visit of his wife Hillary this month. Page 14  
Leading article, page 19

## Bodies recovered

The number of deaths in the Scottish mountains rose to 15 in six weeks as rescuers recovered the bodies of three men from Glencoe. Two others, missing since Saturday, are now presumed dead. Page 3

## Major gambles on IRA guns

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND NICHOLAS WATT

FACE-TO-FACE talks between ministers and Sinn Fein leaders could begin without the IRA handing over a single gun, Downing Street announced yesterday.

As the Government sought to inject fresh momentum into the search for peace in a Northern Ireland, Michael Howard, Home Secretary, responded to the "transformed situation" by lifting exclusion orders on 16 suspected Irish terrorists. Forty are still on the blacklist — half the number of a year ago.

In the annual debate on the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Mr Howard also said that if the ceasefire held, the Government would have to consider whether it needed to retain the "exceptional powers" in this temporary piece of legislation.

The moves, which provoked outrage among Unionists and a critical response from Sinn Fein leaders, are seen at Westminster as John Major's latest gamble in his delicate balancing act intended to bring all sides to the negotiating table.

They were also intended to put pressure on Sinn Fein to say what it intends to do about Republican weapons. The overtures were coupled with a

Downing Street warning that Sinn Fein would not come in from the cold fully until the IRA had made big strides in destroying its guns and explosives.

The significance of the moves is that the Government is dispelling the deliberate confusion surrounding the terms on which Sinn Fein could talk to ministers and clarifying its past calls for "substantial progress on de-commissioning weapons".

Amplifying Tuesday's remarks by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in Washington, Downing Street officials denied that the Government was softening its stance towards Sinn Fein. They admitted, however, that John Major and his Cabinet had embarked on a new phase in the process.

"Are we moving the position on? The answer is Yes," one senior aide said. "But it is not a softening. That is nonsense."

Downing Street's intervention clarified the conditions attached to direct talks between ministers and Sinn Fein leaders such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. Ministers would be prepared to enter the exploratory

## Protestors' flare sets fire to British ferry

By JONATHAN PRYNN

FRENCH sailors yesterday fired a rocket flare at a British cross-Channel ferry and set it on fire in Boulogne harbour. The ferry is at the centre of a dispute over the use of low-wage Polish seamen.

The flare, fired through the window of an empty lounge on *The Spirit of Independence*, caused tens of thousands of pounds worth of damage. It gutted the lounge, but did not spread to the rest of the ship and was put out by the ferry's crew. There were no injuries, and the ferry made the trip to Folkestone.

Its owners, Meridian Ferries, based in Folkestone, said they had been subjected to "terrorist tactics" and called on the French Government to protect them against the demonstrators.

The attack came from 12 French seamen who circled the ferry in two tugs as it waited for lorries to load. French police later made several arrests.

The French seamen have been picketing the sea-front at Boulogne since January in their protest against the use of 130 Polish sailors on Meridian's two freight ferries.

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## 46

Peter Bottomley (Eltham) was minded to oppose him. "Speak for England!" shouted one old buffer, as Bottomley rose. But the MP, a vegetarian himself, spoke instead for tolerance and against hysterical food-faddism, slightly spoiling the effect by declaring: "Hysteria comes from cheese!"

All good fun. The House laughed, voted, and nothing will come of it. Some MPs eat meat, some eat cheese and some do not. All are hysterical. It must be something in the water.

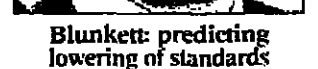
**FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY IN FRANKFURT**

## MAN IN THE NEWS

John Clitheroe, senior partner of the firm. Mr Clitheroe will be part of the team acting for Mr Leeson and his wife, along with Chris Murray, head of the firm's criminal law department.

**By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR**

Angela Hobbsbaum, co-ordinator of the Reading Recovery National Network, based at the London University Institute of Education, said: "The report proves Reading Recovery is worth supporting."



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But Mr Howard saw scope for reducing the number of exclusion orders banning suspected terrorists from either the United Kingdom as a whole or the British mainland. The Home Secretary did not name those relieved.

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Leamington	The Grosvenor Hotel	Scarborough	The Grosvenor Hotel
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Swindon	The Grosvenor Hotel	Taunton	The Redford
Walsall	The Grosvenor Hotel	Teversham	Royal Road Hotel
		Yeovil	The Manor Hotel

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**The strain  
of Flockto  
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## Avalanche vic mountain dea

**SATURDAY IN THE TIME**

## Summer style

**MAGAZINE**  
ROAD TEST

**CAR 95**  
THE SEVEN-SEAS

# The strange case of Flockton Grey returns to court

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE case of Flockton Grey, the racehorse said to have been swapped for a "ringer", is to return to the courts for the examination of new evidence 11 years after its owner, Kenneth Richardson, was convicted for conspiracy to defraud bookmakers.

Mr Richardson, 56, a former racehorse owner and businessman, was given a nine-month suspended sentence and fined £20,000 at York Crown Court in 1984 after he was convicted of running a ringer in a race at Leicester.

He was said to have made £200,000 from the scam and was "warned off" — banned from racing — by the Jockey Club for 25 years after the case, but steadfastly maintained his innocence.

Mr Richardson appealed to the High Court against the conviction in 1986 and in October last year to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, but both appeals were refused.

Yesterday Mr Justice Laws granted Mr Richardson leave to seek judicial review of the Home Secretary's ruling. Michael Mansfield, QC, said evidence had come to light which showed that Mr Richardson had not switched horses and this should have been put before the Appeal Court.

Mr Mansfield told the High Court that, after Mr Richardson's unsuccessful 1986 appeal, the officer in charge of the case had made a statement saying there was uncertainty



Flockton Grey: went missing after race

over the identity of the horse that won the race.

That statement, combined with photographic and new expert evidence, had made the Home Secretary's refusal last October to refer the case back to the Appeal Court unfair and unreasonable, he told Mr Justice Laws. The judge gave leave for a judicial review, saying there was "an arguable case".

At the time of the Flockton Grey scandal Mr Richardson, from Hutton, Humberside, was a 46-year-old businessman who had built up a £4 million fortune. He made his first £1,000 during National Service by cutting soldiers' hair for a shilling each.

He set up in business repairing farm machinery and manufacturing sacks, but claimed

to have made at least £1 million from betting on horses. In 1960 he went bankrupt, but set up racing stables in Belgium and carried on betting, recovering some of his lost fortune and becoming a millionaire again.

In March 1982, a heavily backed horse purporting to be the two-year-old Flockton Grey won the five-furlong race at Leicester by 20 lengths at 10-1.

After an investigation, race officials alleged that the race, for two-year-old horses, had actually been won by Good Hand, a three-year-old ringer with an almost identical appearance to Flockton Grey.

Kenneth Richardson, together with his racing manager Colin Mathison, then 46, and a companion, Peter Boddy, were subsequently charged with conspiring to defraud bookmakers. It was alleged that they had given the winning horse a false identity in a betting coup.

At his trial, when he was defended by George Carman, QC, Mr Richardson claimed the horse was Flockton Grey, but the horse had disappeared after the race and before the stewards' inquiry, prompted by the winning margin.

The only evidence that remained was a photograph of the winner, with its mouth open, taken by a local photographer. Evidence from veterinary surgeons said the horse had the teeth of a three-year-old.



SIMON WALKER

## Paige heads into the Sunset starring role

Elaine Paige was preparing for a sunshine break in the Caribbean yesterday after it was confirmed she is to take over the starring role in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical *Sunset Boulevard* at a reported £25,000 a week. Fresh from the hairdresser's in London, Paige said: "I'm about to go off to Antigua next weekend. I thought I might as well play a bit before I embark on this." The show is expected to be

taxing and she said: "I'll run on the beach every day to get fitter and swim a lot to help me prepare for it." Paige, 43, described the part of silent screen star Norma Desmond as the "best role in the West End without doubt" for a woman in musical theatre.

Buckley, who is moving to the production in New York from May 1. She has already had a six-week try-out she stepped in at three weeks' notice last December to cover for Buckley at the Adelphi Theatre while she was in hospital for an appendectomy. She is the fourth singer to play the heroine of Billy Wilder's classic 1950 film, in which a Hollywood star's limited grip on reality disintegrates into madness.

## Strangled woman's boyfriend dies in car

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE body of a carpet fitter wanted by detectives after his former girlfriend was strangled has been found in a car 300 miles away.

Brian Cuthbertson, 24, was slumped in the passenger seat of an X-registered Ford Capri. The car was parked at a service station at Alnwick, Northumberland, 25 miles from his family's village of Dudley. He is thought to have died from a drug overdose.

Mr Cuthbertson had been missing since Phaedra Walker left her parents' home at Cookham, Berkshire, to meet him last Saturday. Her body was found on Monday at a nearby beauty spot.

Miss Walker, 24, a care worker, had returned to her family after her relationship with Mr Cuthbertson ended earlier this year. He faced a charge of causing a pensioner's death by dangerous driving last month and was said to be distraught at the ending of their relationship.

Miss Walker was last seen leaving her parents' house to meet him for a discussion on the sale of their home at Booker, Buckinghamshire. Mr Cuthbertson was later seen driving her red MG Metro alone. The next day it was found in Knightsbridge, central London.

John Ord, the Alnwick service station owner, said staff noticed the Capri on Tuesday but did not notify police until yesterday. "This place is often used like a municipal car park, with people playing golf or getting lifts and leaving their cars here."

## Avalanche victims bring mountain death toll to 15

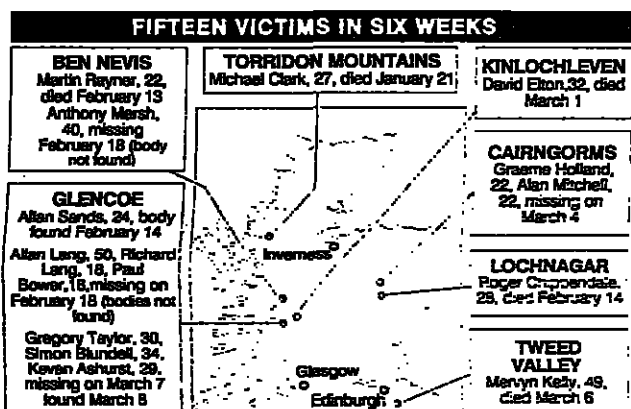
By GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE death toll on Scotland's mountains rose to fifteen victims in six weeks yesterday as rescuers recovered the bodies of three men from Glencoe. Two others, missing since Saturday in the Cairngorms, are now presumed to be dead.

The bodies found by mountain rescue teams on Buachaille Etive Mor in Glencoe are believed to be Gregory Taylor, 30, from Manchester, Simon Blundell, 34, from Bolton and Kevan Ashurst, 29, from Cheshire.

The three men had not been seen since Saturday but were only reported missing yesterday when they failed to turn up for work. Relatives of the men were travelling to Scotland yesterday to identify the bodies. The dead men are believed to have been swept to their deaths in an avalanche. Their climbing equipment was found near by.

Buachaille Etive Mor has claimed the lives of six climbers this year. Allan Lang, 50, his son Richard, 18, and Paul Bower, 18, are also thought to have succumbed to an avalanche three weeks ago. Their bodies have still not been found. Civilian mountain rescue teams, augmented by nine teams of sniffer-dogs and a Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick,



worked in hazardous conditions yesterday. The avalanche warning for the area was scale five, the most risky category and there were fears that the blade of the helicopter might set off an avalanche.

It took rescuers six hours of prodding with long aluminium poles to locate the bodies. The three men had chatted to rescue teams on Saturday before their trip and had told them their names. But the search for the men began only on Tuesday, after colleagues reported them missing.

A second rescue mission for Graeme Holland, 22, and Alan Mitchell, 22, from Cumbria was scaled down yesterday. The two climbers are thought to have gone missing in the Cairngorms on Saturday but as they left no record of their intended route,

rescuers have had to cover a wide area. It is possible that the pair are camping.

Fourteen of the deaths on the mountain this year have occurred in the last four weeks. But despite the intense activity on the mountains, the death toll so far this year is in line with 1994 when only 28 people died. It was one of the best years on the hills for mountaineers. In 1993 the death toll was 62.

Alf Ingram, of the Mountain Rescue Committee for Scotland, says "The problem is that people's expectations of survival are high and there is an over-estimation of what rescuers can achieve."

Another rescue mission was launched late yesterday after two hill-walkers on the 3,700ft Creag Meagaidh heard cries for help.

## Motorists warned to beware ice and snow

By EMMA WILKINS

SNOW and black ice made driving hazardous in southern England and parts of the North yesterday. Overnight frost was expected to bring further problems on the roads today.

With snow, sleet and rain showers forecast to persist over the next few days, AA Roadwatch urged motorists to drive with caution.

As parts of Kent, Sussex and Hampshire recovered from heavy snowfalls, the National Rivers Authority said that many rivers in the South East were in danger of flooding. In Kent, ploughs cleared roads of six inches of snow.

In Devon, up to three inches of snow fell along the west of Exmoor, halting school buses. In Cumbria snow ploughs and gritters worked through the night to keep one lane of the M6 open between Tebay and Shap. Passes over fells were closed at Hard Knot, Wrynose, Kirkstone, Honister and Hartsdale.

In Scotland up to three inches of snow was hampering drivers on many roads in Dumfries and Galloway, although most routes were open by yesterday morning.

Forecast, page 24

## Satellite may hold murder clue

By RICHARD DUCE

SATELLITE pictures of Kenya may hold a vital clue for John Ward in his seven-year quest to bring his daughter's killers to justice. Mr Ward, whose daughter Julie, 28, was murdered while she was on safari on the Masai Mara reserve in 1988, will go to east Africa later this month to plot map co-ordinates before he orders high-resolution pictures of the area.

He knows exactly where his daughter was last seen alive, where her jeep was found and where he eventually found her body. With those co-ordinates and the

relevant dates Mr Ward hopes that he can trace satellite photographs that will show the movements of his daughter's jeep and other traffic in the area before she was killed.

Such pictures normally cost £1,500 each but Mr Ward, 60, from Suffolk, said yesterday he had made contact with commercial organisations prepared to let him have the information for next to nothing. There is a growing market in satellite images among oil companies and governments keen to monitor everything from crops in fields to coastal erosion. Scores of satellites capable of "seeing" the

earth's surface in extraordinary detail have been in orbit for several years. They are mainly French, Russian and American although Mr Ward would not say who would be helping him.

"There is a missing week before she died and there are conflicting stories as to her whereabouts," Mr Ward said. "If we can track her movements it could be very helpful. Kenyan maps are not that accurate, so I need to go to the area to get the correct grid references."

Two Kenyan gamekeepers stood trial in 1992 for Miss Ward's murder and were acquitted.

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



## Summer style

HOT TIPS ON WHAT TO WEAR  
— A 40-PAGE FASHION GUIDE  
IN THE

MAGAZINE

ROAD TEST: THE NEW £200,000  
BENTLEY AZURE  
IN



THE SEVEN-SECTION TIMES IS 30p  
ON SATURDAY

## Parents support nursery teacher

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS are rallying to support a nursery teacher subject to disciplinary action after accusations that she bound and gagged a rowdy four-year-old with sticky tape.

Mothers of children at Lea Bank Junior and Infant School, Birmingham, have launched a campaign on behalf of Christine Dingley, who is on sick leave, calling for her early return. The boy concerned, Nathaniel Thomas, an asthmatic, yesterday made a boisterous five-minute appearance on GMTV. As his parents Dean and Joanne insisted that their son was not out of control, he proved a handful for the presenters.

The boy fidgeted repeatedly before grabbing Anthea Turner's notes and bolting, dragging microphones behind. Mr Thomas said: "Nathan is a four-year-old boy, not eight or nine and out of control. If that was the case I would have sympathy for the teacher. But he is just a kid."

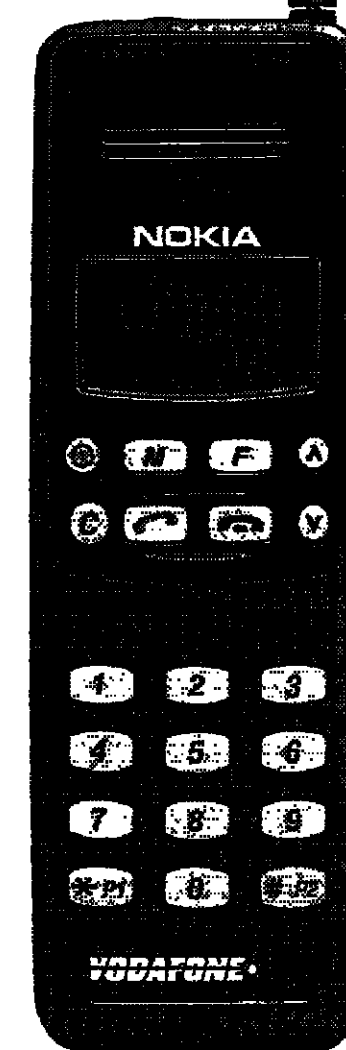
Parents at Lea Bank are considering collecting a petition in support of Mrs

Dingley and have written her letters of support through Jenny Thomas, the head teacher. They refuse to condone the use of sticky tape for the punishment of young children but have questioned the boy's behaviour.

Teachers at the school are understood to be upset by the treatment of Mrs Dingley and frustrated that they are not allowed to put her case in public. Birmingham education authority officials are investigating the incident.



Nathaniel Thomas on television yesterday



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## Anglicans revive plan to unite with Methodists

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England and the Methodist Church are to begin moves towards unity, it was announced yesterday.

After two days of talks in Suffolk, their representatives agreed "to develop practical ways of growing together". They said that they intended "to face frankly their remaining differences and find ways of overcoming them".

If these two denominations, which constitute most of Protestant Christianity in England, were to reunite, the shape of Christianity would be radically altered in this country and its effects would be felt worldwide.

Union would raise the possible introduction of bishops into Methodism, while many believe that the tightly ordered Anglican parochial system would benefit from flexibility along the lines of Methodist circuits and districts, which are more open to growth and change.

The talks come more than 20 years after the Church of England failed to approve a scheme of union between the two churches. They separated in 1795, four years after the death of the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, an Anglican clergyman, had never



Wesley: never wanted a separate church

intended to start a separate church and always considered himself a member of the Church of England.

The break was the eventual outcome of his decision to ordain ministers to work overseas and because of strains between Methodists and Anglicans over church organisation and structure. Some traditionalist Anglicans have been reluctant to reunite with Methodists because of doubts over the validity of Methodist orders and Holy Communion, and because it would end for the foreseeable future hopes of union with the Roman Catholic Church.

Now that the Anglicans have ordained women priests and most hardline traditionalists have left the Church, those remaining accept that unity with Rome is out of the question and are thought to be more willing to re-examine unity with Methodists.

A group meeting at Bury St Edmunds chaired by the Right Rev David Tustin, Bishop of Grimsby, and the Rev Brian Beck, secretary of the Methodist Conference, said that relations between the two churches had changed in the past 20 years. There was "considerable co-operation between the two churches in shared churches and partnerships throughout the country" and a common concern for church work in rural and inner-city areas.

The group will meet in December before presenting its findings to both churches. Unity could take many years to achieve and would have to take into account the United Reformed Church, which shares several buildings with Methodist congregations. A Church of England spokesman said that informal talks with the United Reformed Church would be held in June.

## Habgood urges support for RE

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS must give greater priority to religious education to avert the growth of a "morally bewildered generation", the Archbishop of York said yesterday.

In an age when many young people were turning from mainline religions to astrology and the occult, Dr John Habgood urged schools to use RE lessons to help pupils to build moral foundations for life. He called for the creation of a national RE syllabus to halt a vicious circle of decline that left the subject prey to shortages of time and staff.

The archbishop cited a report by school inspectors that said much RE teaching was

dull and that the vast majority of secondary schools failed to provide enough teaching time for pupils aged 14 to 16. One in five primaries did not teach the subject at all.

Dr Habgood told a London conference: "We are in danger of producing a morally bewildered generation, and while there is no educationally valid way back to a heavy-handed moralism, there is a responsibility on the educational world to help in building some moral foundations."

He said the argument that RE should help to teach children about right and wrong was given a new twist by a recent European study. This showed that the rise and fall of Protestant church adherence in Britain in the last 150 years closely paralleled the rise and fall in the number of indictable offences.

Dr Habgood said young people were adopting increasingly "weird and wonderful" religious ideas and RE lessons helped to provide a rational framework for these impulses. He added: "Religion is not an adjunct of the heritage industry. It is a living force in the world and a primary motivation for a large part of the world's population."

RE is a compulsory subject until 16, but schools are free to decide how much time they devote to it. Government advisers recommend that pupils aged 14 to 16 spend at least 5 per cent of their time on RE.

Eric Forth, the Education Minister, announced at yesterday's conference that curriculum advisers were to develop a short GCSE course. This will allow pupils aged 14 to 16 to gain a qualification in RE, equivalent to half a GCSE, without having to increase the teaching time generally devoted to the subject.

### CORRECTION

Mr John Jubb, the consultant engineer mentioned in an article (March 7), has never been a president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.



Jeanette Smith, left, with her partner Margaret Fleming, was sacked after an anonymous call about her homosexuality

## Ex-nurse to test forces' lesbian ban

A FORMER RAF nurse, sacked for being a lesbian, was yesterday granted leave to challenge her dismissal in a High Court decision that may have widespread repercussions for the Armed Forces. Jeanette Smith, 28, is the first person to be given leave to seek a judicial review on the ground that the forces' ban on homosexuals is contrary to European anti-discrimination law (Kathryn Knight writes).

Hundreds of similar cases against the

Ministry of Defence are expected if she is victorious. After the hearing Miss Smith, accompanied by her girlfriend Margaret Fleming, 30, said it was a watershed for homosexual rights. "I was always hopeful and this is as a very significant day. I am doing this for all the gays and lesbians who have been discriminated against because of their sexuality," she said.

Miss Smith, from Edinburgh, signed up for nine years with the RAF in 1989,

but was dismissed last November after an anonymous telephone call disclosed she was having a lesbian relationship. She had declared herself a heterosexual when she joined, and was subject to a criminal investigation, including intimate questions about her sex life.

Homosexuality ceased to be a criminal offence under military law in March last year, but the MoD policy that "homosexuality is incompatible with military service" remains.

## Four gay bishops 'ready to declare their sexuality'

By OUR RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

UP TO four more bishops, including three in diocesan and suffragan posts, might follow the example of Bishop Derek Rawcliffe and speak publicly about their homosexuality, the gay rights group OutRage! claimed last night.

Bishop Rawcliffe, who is retired, will not be disciplined for his public confession of his homosexuality, according to senior church leaders, who refused yesterday to condemn his remarks. The bishop, who first acknowledged publicly his homosexuality in a letter in the gay weekly *The Pink Paper*, where he said: "God loves us gays and lesbians equally with everyone else."

According to the gay activist Peter Tatchell, Bishop Rawcliffe is one of five bishops who have been talking to gay rights activists in OutRage! about "coming out". None of the five was named by OutRage! in the recent "outing" of ten Church of England bishops because they "seemed they might well be amenable" to going public voluntarily, according to Mr Tatchell. Mr Tatchell said:

"One senior bishop in the Church of England is a sexually active gay. I had a meeting with him at his private residence in early January and urged him to come out. He is wrestling with his conscience because he fears the church and public reaction. He knows that to come out is the right thing to do."

Mr Tatchell added: "We hope other closet bishops will follow Bishop Rawcliffe's lead. It would be very wrong if he was the only one to be open, given that there are 14 others who are homosexual."

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said that the issue of homosexuality was a "grey moral area" for the Church. He said: "There is a place for exploration of these issues by sincere Christians. It is unusual for clergymen in public to do this, but we have to recognise that there is a grey moral area here." He said that the church's position on homosexuality was clear and "a statement by a retired bishop is not going to alter that very much".

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## Girls' school registers addicts to cut smoking

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

AN EXCLUSIVE independent school has gone against the growing trend of smoking among teenage girls by making them register as nicotine addicts to qualify for a daily ration of cigarettes.

Up to 50 of the 300 girls at Cobham Hall, Kent, smoked three years ago. But Rosalind McCarthy, the headmistress, said yesterday that the numbers had dropped to fewer than ten as a result of the novel approach.

The school is based in a 16th-century stately home near Gravesend, and clandestine smoking was posing a fire risk, as well as a health hazard to the pupils. Parents, who pay boarding fees of nearly £12,000 a year, have supported the move.

Fifth and sixth-formers who declare that they smoke when they join the school may register with the doctor to be issued with one or two cigarettes a day while they are weaned off the habit. They have to smoke them in the garden of the school sanatorium, under the supervision of a nurse. Mrs McCarthy said:

"The nurses give them cocoa and help them through difficult times. But it is not a social occasion, and many of the girls decide that it is not worth the bother, especially when they have to stand out in the rain."

Smoking has become increasingly fashionable among teenage girls, who are receiving particular attention in health education campaigns.

### Doctors renew call for tobacco advert ban

A BAN on all cigarette advertising would cut the death rate from cancer and other smoking-related illnesses, according to Dr Vivienne Nathanson, head of health policy at the BMA.

Choosing National No Smoking Day to call on the Government to support the medical profession's efforts to reduce smoking, she said: "It is important to look at tobacco advertising bans and stopping sports sponsorship, all the

Recent surveys suggest that a quarter of 15-year-old girls smoke.

Mrs McCarthy said: "We have a strict no-smoking rule, but it pays to be realistic when girls arrive. When I realised how many smokers there were, we had an amnesty and decided to try to help them to give up."

Among the incentives for the Cobham Hall pupils is the

possibility of positions of responsibility: smokers are banned from holding such positions. "We had one American on 40 a day who gave up to be a house captain," Mrs McCarthy said.

Foreign students, who are regular recruits to the sixth-form, now form the majority of registered smokers. The sanatorium uses nicotine patches and chewing gum, as well as counselling, to help them to give up.

Those who smoke outside the approved area risk heavy penalties, including a report to parents, but not automatic expulsion. Staff have found, however, that covert smoking has declined sharply since the registration rules were introduced.

The scheme was suspended yesterday for No Smoking Day. Mrs McCarthy said: "It has proved to be a workable policy, which I hope will lead eventually to have a completely smokeless zone here. In some schools, smoking is a problem from the first year upwards, but we are gradually getting rid of it."



A Victorian masterpiece that was once abandoned in an alleyway by someone who bought it for its frame is to be auctioned by Christie's in New York (Alexandra Freeman writes). The *Finding of Moses* by Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema is considered the masterpiece of the artist's late period and is expected to

### £2m abandoned art

fetch \$2.5-\$3 million (£1.6-£2 million) when it goes on sale in May. The oil, which shows Moses being carried to the Pharaoh's palace, is one of the Alma-Tadema's largest works, measuring 54 by 84 inches. It was commissioned

by the engineer Sir John Aird in 1902 and took two years to complete. In the late 1950s it was discovered, dumped in an alley in Duke Street, St James's, London, shortly after being sold by the Newman Gallery. Its elaborate

gilt frame was missing. The Newman Gallery took it back and in 1960 it was bought by Allen Funt, the Hollywood scriptwriter and creator of the *Candid Camera* television show. He sold it in 1973 to its present owner, an American private collector. It will be on view at Christie's in London until March 10.

## Break in livestock journey raises stress, study shows

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ANIMALS being transported long distances may suffer more by being unloaded for a rest than by being left in the truck, research has shown. A team at the Bristol Veterinary School funded by the Agriculture Ministry has shown that by far the most stressful part of the journey is being loaded on to the trucks.

The heart rate of sheep rises from 90 to 135 beats per minute during loading, when the animals are in close contact with humans and are forced into an alien environment where they mix with sheep from other flocks. Cortisol, a chemical released into the blood during stressful situations, also rises sharply.

Doctors Toby Knowles and Paul Warriss found that heart rate and cortisol levels remained high for about 90 minutes. After about nine hours, the sheep had settled and were able to lie down. The amounts of an enzyme called

CPK in the blood, which gives an indication of tiredness, show that at this stage the sheep are not physically stressed. The results suggest that, for sheep, breaking journeys after eight hours would add to stress.

Similar results have been obtained for cattle by Dr Warriss, who says that reducing journey times for cattle from 15 hours to ten would not bring about much improvement in welfare.

Pigs suffer most but are seldom sent far. Dr Warriss says in this week's issue of *New Scientist*.

Air France was fined £1,000 for allowing two cows to suffocate to death in an aircraft hold at Heathrow. They died when doors on the Boeing 747 froze shut, preventing technicians bringing in air conditioning equipment. Unbridge magistrates were told. Air France admitted causing unnecessary suffering.

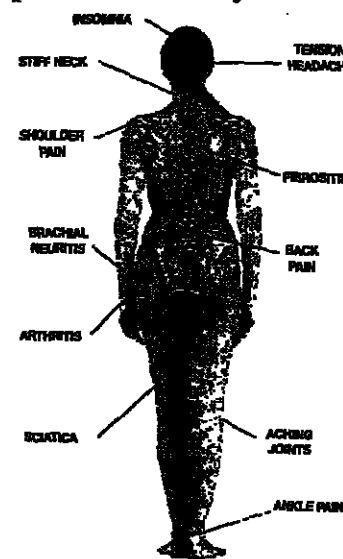
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42-year sentence by special arrangement

# Macmillan insisted on long jail term if Blake went on trial

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE traitor George Blake was sentenced to 42 years in prison in 1961, the longest term given in British legal history, after a secret arrangement between the Macmillan government and the Lord Chief Justice.

According to a biography of a former British intelligence chief, the Secret Intelligence Service (M16) had betrayed at least 400 agents of whom more than 40 had been killed. No mention of the deaths was made during the Old Bailey trial of Blake, a middle-ranking M16 officer, who had expected to be sentenced to a maximum of 14 years.

However Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller, the Attorney-General, passed the information about the 40 deaths discreetly to Lord Parker, the Lord Chief Justice, who presided in the trial. He sentenced Blake to five 14-year prison terms, three to run consecutively.

Tom Bower, author of *The Perfect English Spy*, *Sir Dick White and the Secret War 1935-90* (Heinemann), was granted a series of interviews with Sir Dick. Sir Dick told him the Government wanted to hit Blake "with the biggest hammer possible". Sir Reginald proposed that Blake be charged on five counts, separating five periods of his service. That enabled Lord Parker to pass five sentences. Mr Bower, whose book is published later this month, wrote: "Blake was stunned. The Government fiercely denied any suggestion of a link



Blake: betrayed at least 400 agents

between the unproven deaths and the sentence. Since no member of the public had heard the prosecutor's speech [the trial was in camera], the denials were accepted."

Sir Dick, the only person to head both M15 and M16, said Blake was far worse than Philby in terms of the agents and information he betrayed. Blake, who escaped from Wormwood Scrubs in October 1966 and lives in Moscow, was posted to Berlin in 1955 and was responsible for recruiting Soviet agents. He also collected material that could be used for blackmail.

The biography reveals that Peter Lunn, M16 station chief in Berlin, had introduced a card index of agents. In the event of an alert or arrest, the duty officer would pull the card and see which of 50 M16 officers should be summoned.

Mr Bower said: "Occasionally Blake was the night duty officer. He copied the names of all the service's agents and, at regular meetings in East Berlin, passed the contents of SIS's whole structure to his KGB controller."

Blake came under suspicion in 1961 after a Polish military intelligence officer revealed there were two spies in Britain. According to Sir Dick, who died in 1993, Macmillan was against putting Blake on trial. But Sir Dick warned him that "the cost of doing nothing would be enormous both within the service and with the Americans".

In return for a prosecution, Macmillan insisted that arrangements be made to render Blake liable to imprisonment for more than the maximum 14 years. Blake had been charged under the Official Secrets Act with an offence that did not allow a longer sentence to be passed.



Suzanne Judge with her husband yesterday. "For me, I can't turn the clock back"

## Breast cancer victim awarded £215,000 attacks 'care lottery'

By EDWARD GORMAN

A WOMAN who received £215,000 compensation after a general surgeon failed to diagnose her breast cancer called yesterday for specialist clinics.

Suzanne Judge, 38, a mother of two, said that other women should not have to face the same ordeal because of the "lottery of care" for women with breast problems. "For me personally, I can't turn the clock back," she said. "For other women, I would like to see a network of specialist breast cancer clinics. This would give them the best possible chances of a cure and treatment."

Mrs Judge, of St Ives, Cambridgeshire, had been referred to Clive Quick, consultant surgeon at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon. He told her that the lump was not sinister. Nine months later he agreed to remove it because Mrs Judge was in great pain. After the operation he discovered the lump to be cancerous.

Huntingdon Health Authority denied liability but the High Court held last year that Mr Quick had been negligent. In an out-of-court settlement this week, Mrs Judge received

£215,000 for the loss of an 80 per cent chance of surviving the disease.

She believes the blame lies not just with a general surgeon who was not up to date with the latest diagnostic techniques in breast cancer, but also with a system which meant that she was not referred to a specialist at the outset. "Many women aren't referred to a specialist breast surgeon... because of where they live."

She has discovered that there were tests which would have detected her cancer, but they were not available at Hinchingbrooke.

Mrs Judge is receiving chemotherapy and has undergone a mastectomy. In six weeks' time scans will tell whether the chemotherapy is likely to give her a chance of survival.

Her husband Stephen, 39, a former driving instructor, has stayed at home for the past year to look after her and their children Samuel, 10, and Eleanor, 8. He said he was bitter at the way his wife has been treated. "I just think we've been let down completely and it's put a great strain on our life and family."

## Official day for women to have their say

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

WOMEN had a chance to celebrate their achievements yesterday as hundreds of events, including marches, seminars, exhibitions and concerts, marked International Women's Day.

The *Scottsman* newspaper — the last national daily with the word "man" in its title — changed its name for the day to *The Scotswoman* and turned over all senior editorial posts to female members of staff.

Jan Brierley, the paper's assistant news editor for a day, said the experiment had proved very useful. "I don't think it is just tokenism and it may lead to changes in the longer term in the way we look at news because it gave everybody the chance to see how women work and react to stories."

In Birmingham, the city council has organised a month-long women's arts festival. There are similar initiatives in a number of other venues, such as Southampton and Kirkcaldy, West Yorkshire.

A special women's service was held at St Mary's Church in Swansea and was followed by a vigil; a flower planting ceremony took place at the Victoria Plantation Gardens in Norwich.

At Westminster, MPs debated women's wages. Anne Campbell, the Labour MP for Cambridge, called for women to be given tax relief for childcare facilities. Many women were prevented from making a contribution to the economy because of the huge cost of childcare, she said.

## Flood killed farmer who refused to leave home

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARMER who ignored pleas by his family to leave his flooded home was found drowned in the cottage the following day, an inquest was told yesterday.

Clifford Greenwood, 67, sat in a picnic chair, wearing his flat cap, drinking whisky and watching television as flood-water rose rapidly in his sitting room. His feet were propped up on a brick, the inquest in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, was told. Moira Clough, girlfriend of Mr Greenwood's son, said the farmer refused four times to leave his cottage.

Mr Greenwood, who hated water and could not swim, was adamant he would not leave his cottage in Pool Wharfedale. Rapidly melting snow on February 1 caused a rush of water from nearby hillsides and a flash flood in the River Wharfe — water was 18in deep in Mr Greenwood's sitting room.

The dead man's son, Michael Greenwood, said the river flooded every four years but this was the worst he had seen. He said: "I pleaded with my father to leave his home but he remained stubborn and refused to come to my farm." He was found dead on the waterlogged carpet in the living room.

Colin Moore, the Coroner, recording a verdict of misadventure, said tests showed that Mr Greenwood was twice over the drink-drive alcohol limit when he drowned. He assumed that his flimsy chair toppled into the water and he was held down by his heavy wet clothing.

## Briton pays £125 to have limb buried

By A STAFF REPORTER

A BRITISH man who had his leg amputated in Spain had to pay £125 to have the limb buried in the local municipal graveyard.

Tris Warren, whose husband Donald, 70, is still recovering in hospital, said she was shocked when hours after the operation a doctor told her the hospital did not want the limb and arranged for two undertakers to see her. They asked her to select a suitable casket.

Mr Warren, who has now lost both legs, had the second amputated at the Los Arcos Hospital in Murcia because of ulcers and poor blood

circulation. The couple moved to Spain seven years ago. Mrs Warren said: "The undertakers told me they could do a box and arrange a burial at the local cemetery for 25,000 pesetas. We now have the receipt for the leg which lies in the local cemetery with a little plaque on it bearing Donald's name. I make a point of asking my friend to put flowers on it."

A spokesman for the British consulate in Benidorm said there was no legal obligation to have limbs interred but it was normal for an undertaker to dispose of them if the hospital had no crematorium.

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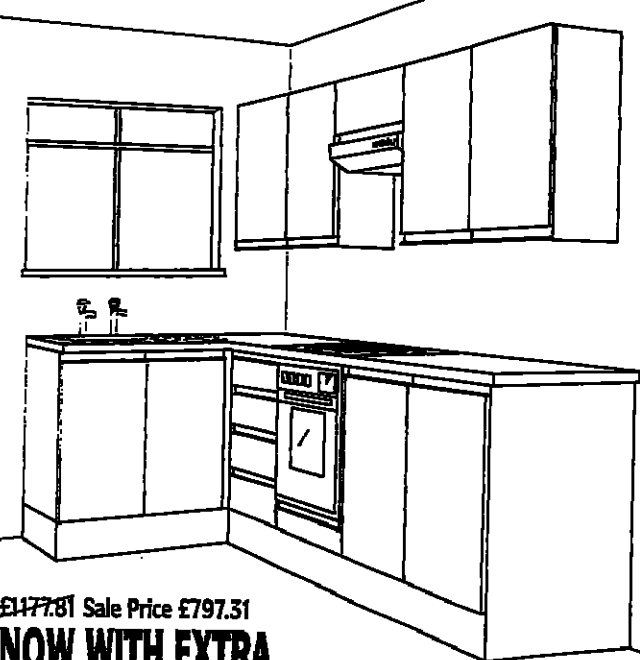
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## Royal friend questioned over charity fundraising

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Charity Commission is investigating complaints that a children's charity chaired by Major General Graham Hollands, a friend of the Duchess of York, has raised up to £1 million and failed to account for its distribution.

The Child Aid Foundation agrees that it is "a reasonable guesstimate" that it has raised about £1 million since its creation in June 1993. A spokeswoman said yesterday she could not provide figures to contest claims that the foundation has only distributed £30,000 to various causes but said: "That figure sounds very low."

Four charities — the Meningitis Trust, Meningitis Research, the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, and the British Institute for Brain Injured Children — have written to the commission alleging that the Child Aid Foundation has used their names in fundraising without authorisation, plagiarised their publicity material, or claimed credit for their work without giving them any financial support.

A BBC television programme, *Here and Now*, screened last night, alleged that the foundation had failed to furnish satisfactory accounts, and had refused to provide explanations during a three-month investigation. The charity was set up by John Tugay, a South African, to "advance education and re-

lieve poverty, distress and suffering of children in any part of the world". Mr Tugay resigned as the foundation's director-general two weeks ago because of "continuing ill health". His wife Paula resigned as a trustee of the charity at the same time.

June Beeden, a spokeswoman for the foundation, said yesterday that Mr Tugay had suffered recurring bouts of pneumonia, and had undergone a second operation on one of his eyes on Monday, but that his present whereabouts were unknown. Miss Beeden said: "Improperity is not in question."

Major General Hollands has been chairman of the foundation's trustees, who are legally responsible for its affairs, since February 1994. He was chairman of the Combined Services Winter Sports Association when the Duchess of York was its patron, and is director of Children in Crisis, her personal charity.

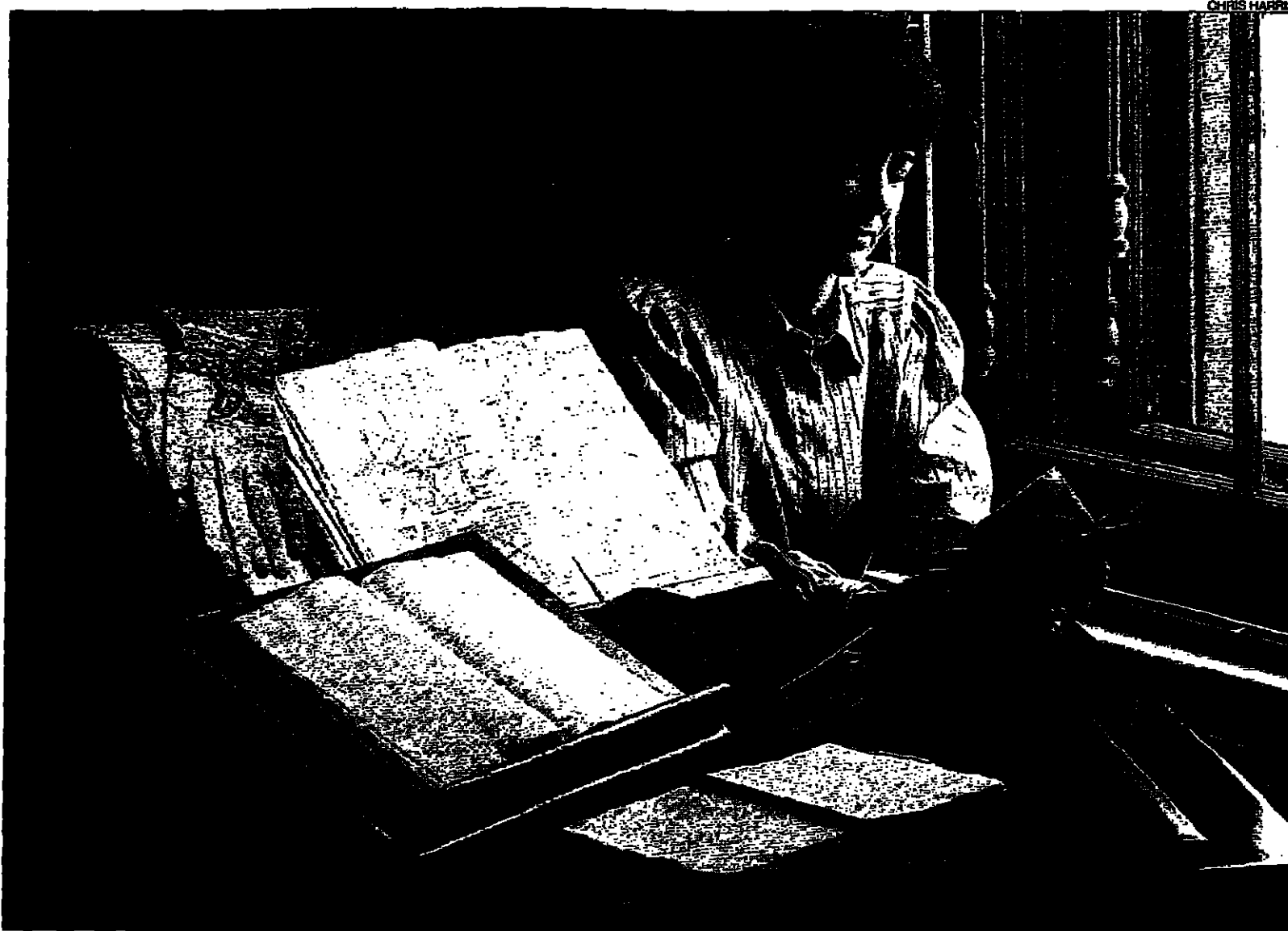
The only accounts the Child Aid Foundation has filed show that of £143,000 received up to March 1994, £84,000 had been spent on administration. Another £13,000 is attributed to "setting up costs". £33,000 is shown as being passed to reserves and only £12,000 is shown as having been spent on charitable purposes. £8,000 on the purchase of a bus and £4,000 on the foundation's Medline, a medical directory which purports to put worried parents in contact with appropriate medical care.

A spokeswoman for the Charity Commission confirmed yesterday that "several representations" had been received about Child Aid and were being investigated.

A spokeswoman for the Duchess of York said in a statement: "Children in Crisis is aware that Major General Hollands is working with the Charity Commission in an informal inquiry into Child Aid. We cannot comment until the commission report is complete."



Hollands took over in February 1994



Dr Frances Harris, a curator at the British Library, studies part of the Evelyn collection. The gloves were given to him by Peter the Great

## British Library buys record of 17th-century life and times

By JOHN YOUNG

THE British Library has acquired the archive of one of England's most prolific and versatile men of letters, the 17th-century diarist John Evelyn.

The collection, consisting of 605 numbered manuscripts and about a hundred further volumes, boxes and bundles of papers, was bought by private treaty from the trustees of the will of the late Major Peter Evelyn. The National Heritage Memorial Fund provided a grant of £1.45 million, but the total price has not been disclosed.

Dr Brian Lang, chief executive of the library, yesterday described the archive as of the greatest importance for scholars of 17th-century Britain. "I am immensely pleased that the British Library is to be its new home and that we



Evelyn: prolific diarist

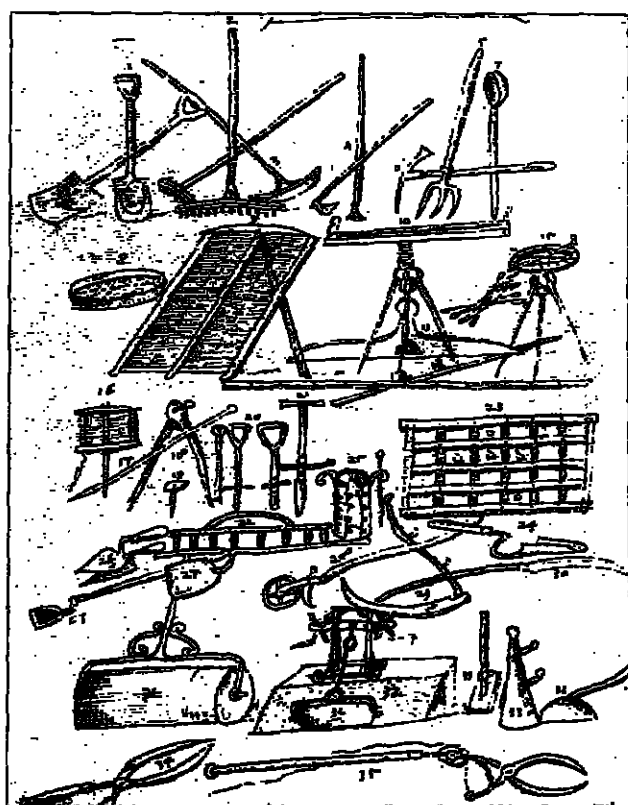
can make it available to scholars through our reading rooms, and to the public through our exhibition galleries," he said.

"Although we have been distracted by the problems over our new site in Euston Road, an acquisition like this shows that the British Li-

brary is alive and flourishing and getting on with what it should be doing."

Evelyn, who was at the centre of the intellectual, social, political and ecclesiastical world of his age, began recording his life and times while still a boy and continued for some 75 years until his death in 1706. His diary has long been recognised as the most informative record of a momentous period in English history.

Until now the collection had been in the possession of his descendants at the family home at Wotton, Surrey. It includes the original manuscript of his diary, extensive correspondence with notable contemporaries such as Samuel Pepys, Grinling Gibbons and Sir Christopher Wren, and his unpublished gardening encyclopaedia *Elysium Britannicum*.



Sketches from Evelyn's gardening encyclopaedia

## Injured boxer is improving

Gerald McClellan, the boxer who suffered brain injuries in his world title fight with Nigel Benn 12 days ago, has been taken off life support and sedation, the Royal London Hospital said yesterday. The surgeon who operated on the American super middleweight said he was slightly better and steadily improving.

## Double death

Geoffrey Mace, 56, of Huddersfield, strangled his wife Paula, 41, after fearing she would leave, then gassed himself. Inquest verdicts: unlawful killing and suicide.

## Libel victory

The socialite Lady Colin Campbell, 46, accepted undisclosed libel damages at the High Court over a *Daily Mirror* article that wrongly said she was a transsexual.

## Poison charge

Margaret Baber, 51, a care worker accused of trying to poison an elderly diabetic woman at the patient's home in Bristol, was released on bail by the city's magistrates.

## Blood pressure

Civil servants and parliamentary staff answered an appeal for blood after a patient at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, needed 108 pints, depleting already low stocks.

## Birthday woe

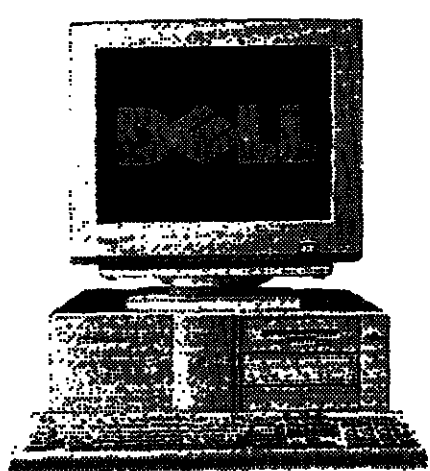
A man tricked his way into the home of Lily Carter, of Headingley, Leeds, days after she turned 100, and stole £90 she had put aside to pay for celebratory drinks.

## Titanic memorial

A memorial garden for the 1,490 people lost in the sinking of the *Titanic* will be opened next month at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, southeast London.

## Brains trust

Southend Community Health Trust has bought 8,000 brains kept for research at Runwell Hospital, Essex. John Bird, of the trust, said they were *The Three Graces* of neuroscience.



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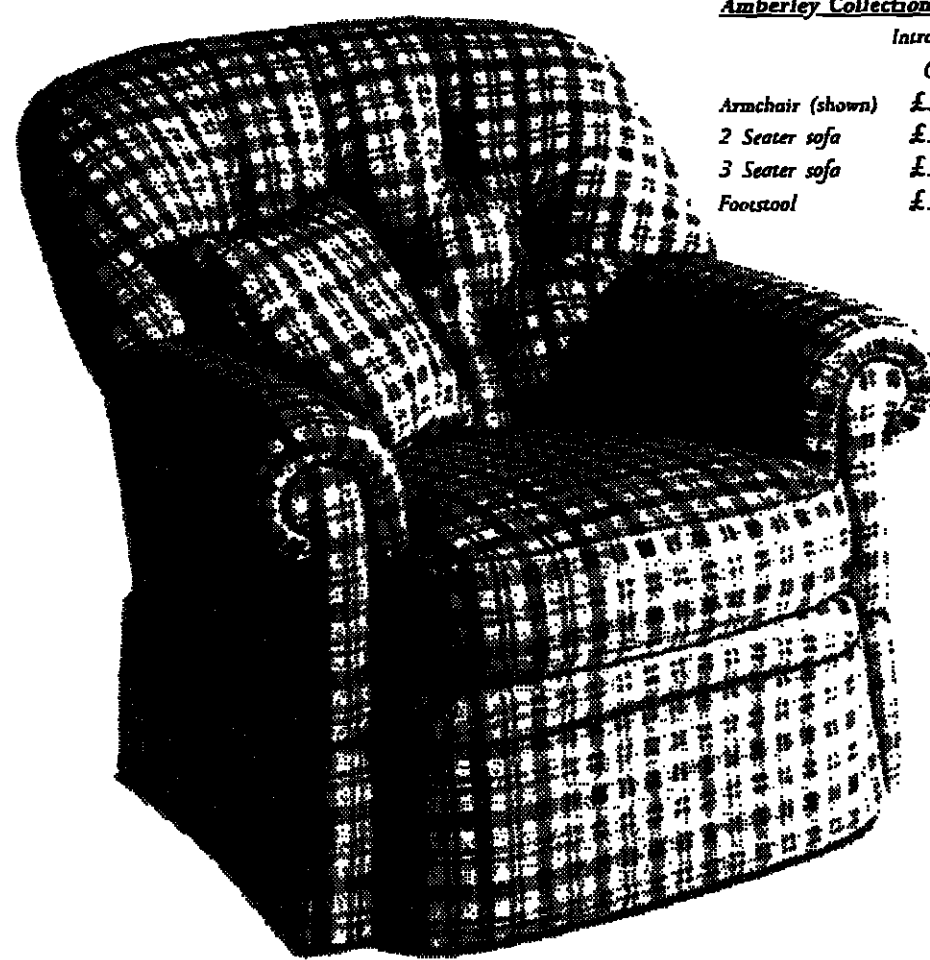
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# Major has kept party afloat but real test is steering it to victory

The case for John Major usually goes by default, or is only grudgingly admitted. So there is a certain irony that the most coherent argument on his behalf has been presented by Sarah Hogg after she ceased being one of his closest advisers rather than during her more than four years as head of the Downing Street Policy Unit when she was constrained by Civil Service rules.

Her view was given in a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society, as reported by Nigel Williamson on this page yesterday. The John Major she portrays practises the virtues of pragmatism and caution, responds to circum-

## RIDDEL ON POLITICS

stances as well as initiatives. He does not automatically accept Civil Service advice but listens and consults. He allows the whole of the Cabinet to have a say so that everyone is involved in decisions. This portrait rings true. Mr Major is a skilful handler of his colleagues, relying more on the formal machinery of the Cabinet and its committees than the ad hoc groups increasingly favoured by Margaret Thatcher. There is little grumbling from his colleagues about his role as Cabinet chair-

man. One indicator is that despite all the tensions of the past few years no member of the Cabinet has resigned because of disagreements over policy. Indeed, it has been crucial to Mr Major's survival that he has prevented any of the sceptics — the bastards as he called them in July 1993 — from breaking off to head a potentially fatal revolt against him. In that respect, he has been more successful than, say, Arthur Balfour was in 1903-05 faced by similar internal problems.

Lady Hogg also depicts the Prime Minister as a reformer, particularly in the organisation of Government, based on his experi-

ences 25 years ago as a Lambeth councillor dealing with housing cases. That has been the inspiration for the Citizen's Charter, which has had a bigger impact than is generally appreciated at Westminster. In improving services at a local level and in setting measurable standards of performance. This has been linked to other initiatives in establishing executive agencies, market testing etc. Mr Major, as she fairly claimed, has also done more to open up the work of central government than any previous Prime Minister, ranging from publishing the procedural rules for ministers and the membership

of Cabinet committees to bringing the intelligence services at least partly out of the shadows. As Lady Hogg would acknowledge, Mr Major can also be credited with a determination to bring down inflation and return public finances to good shape, though as a Treasury minister he had his share of blame for the earlier errors, particularly in permitting rises in public spending. His record on Europe is patchier but given the divisions within his own party he has at least avoided any irrevocable negative commitments. And he has defied the doubts of many colleagues in launching and personally taking

forward the attempt to break the stalemate in Northern Ireland. He has already achieved more than his predecessors in at least securing a ceasefire which has lasted six months. That is a solid record by any measure. But Mr Major cannot be judged just on his own terms. The real test is whether he has given the Tories a new sense of direction after so many years in office. He obviously succeeded in his first 18 months, healing some of the wounds of the end of the Thatcher area and offering a sufficiently fresh face to help to win the 1992 election. But that changed after Black Wednesday and sterling's

forced withdrawal from the European exchange-rate mechanism. That has done lasting damage to Mr Major's public credibility and to the coherence of the Government's strategy.

It has required all Mr Major's tactical skills to keep the party more or less together. But much more will be required to win the next election. It is not just a matter of survival or managing the Cabinet, but of having and articulating a broader strategic view. Mr Major has yet to show that he is more than a transitional leader.

PETER RIDDELL

## We cannot ignore risk of terrorism, declares Howard

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government defended its decision to seek renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act for a further twelve months with Michael Howard telling the House last night: "We are not prepared to do anything which would expose the people of our country to unnecessary risk."

The Home Secretary also promised that he would never authorise damages payments as a result of the challenge to his exclusion orders policy by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, in the European Court.

Mr Howard, opening the annual debate on the Act, said: "It would, in our view, be wholly irresponsible to dismantle our defences while the paramilitary organisations remain intact, while they continue to carry out brutal punishment beatings, while their command structures, weapons and explosives remain in place and while they retain the capability to resume violence at very short notice."

Announcing the lifting of a further 16 exclusion orders that bar people in Northern Ireland from coming to Britain, Mr Howard said: "There are now just 40 orders in force,

### DEBATE

half the number of a year ago." He added that the police had convinced the Government that among those still excluded were some who would be likely to play some part in terrorism on the mainland, were that to resume.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said he regretted that Labour could not support the Government in voting to renew the Act. His party wanted assurances that there would be a comprehensive review of anti-terrorism legislation.

Mr Howard said he was hopeful that those who previously supported violence could be brought fully within the political process. Tory backbenchers angrily interrupted to protest at reports that the Government could be forced to pay £20 million compensation to 500 excluded IRA sympathisers, including Mr Adams, under a case brought in the European Court.

Sir Anthony Grant (C, Cambridgeshire South West) said it would be "absolutely monstrous" if huge sums of taxpay-

ers' money were extracted by members of the IRA "after all the misery and suffering they have caused".

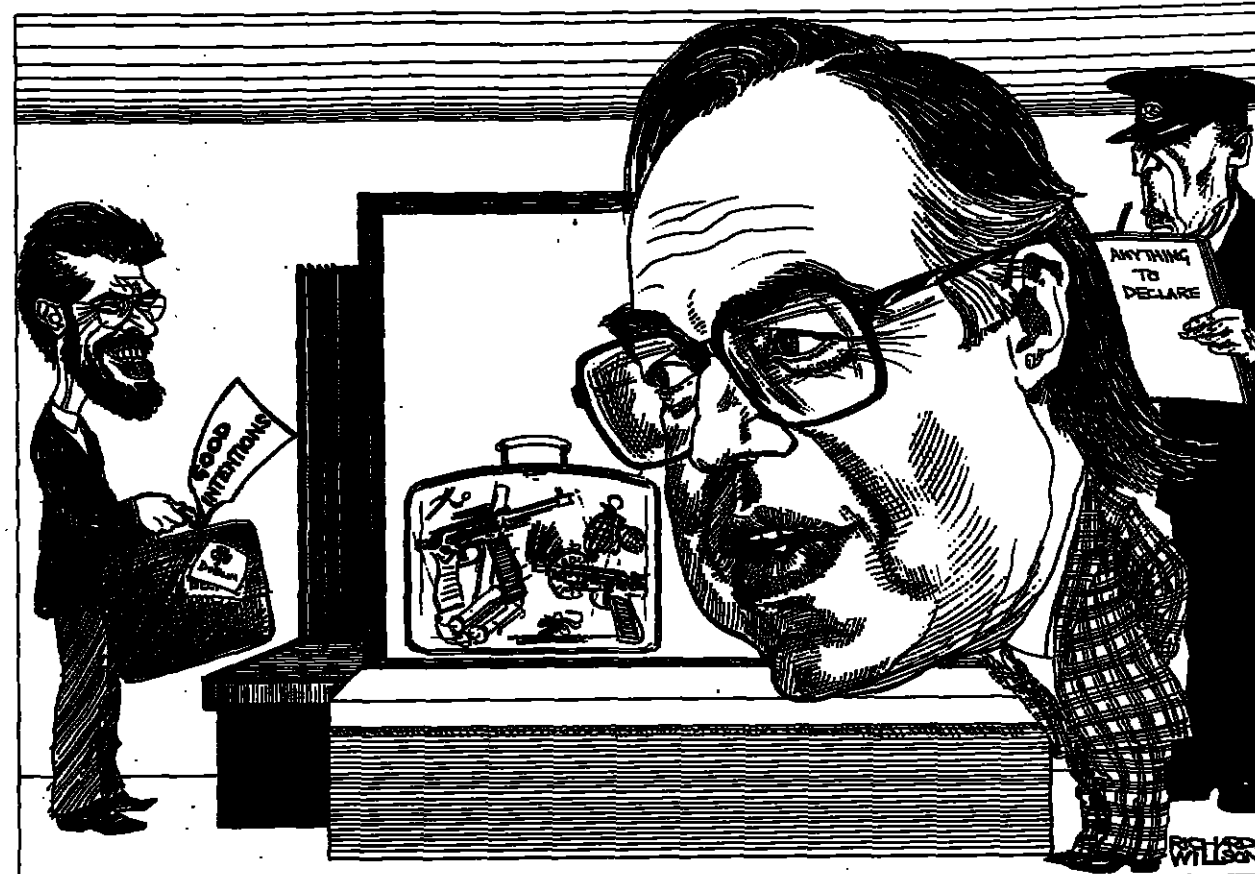
Mr Howard sympathised but said reports that the European Commission had made representations in support of Mr Adams' claim were inaccurate.

Terry Dicks (C, Hayes and Harlington) angrily demanded "that irrespective of what any European Court says about Adams this Government will take no notice of that and flatly refuse to pay him and his ilk any money at all".

To cheers from both sides, Mr Howard said: "I shall never authorise any payment of damages as a result of this case."

Mr Straw acknowledged the violence of the past 25 years. "We can neither forgive nor forget these terrible, brutal atrocities which have scarred our society. There is no question on this side of dismantling the security apparatus." But he said that in the light of the ceasefire, the case for the establishment of a fundamental review was unanswerable and overwhelming.

"That would not undermine the fight against terrorism, but



strengthen it, by ensuring that the powers that are needed for this fight are proportionate to the threat and enjoy the consent and understanding of the public."

Roger Stott (Lab, Wigan) said that 21 years ago, after the Birmingham pub bombings, he had voted for the Act's renewal. "But as time went by, I and my party began to realise that the draconian powers contained in this Act were becoming unsustainable. The erosion of civil liberties, of

human rights could no longer in our judgment be sustained."

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the people of Northern Ireland saw the "so-called ceasefire and peace process" as an advantage to the terrorists. "The IRA can at this time dictate when this peace can be broken and in the interim the Government are dancing to a tune of concessions in order to keep the Provisional IRA sweet. The fact is that the IRA

has no intention whatsoever of decommissioning or surrendering arms. They remain today one of the advanced terrorist organisations in the western world with the greatest possible killing potential."

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, rejected suggestions that there had been a weakening in the Government's position on terrorist arms. Asked about reports that talks between ministers and Sinn Féin leaders could begin without the

IRA having handed over a single gun, Sir Patrick said: "There is no case for anybody retaining arms which are illegally held. That is abundantly clear. There is no change whatsoever in the Government's position. In a democracy parties will not sit down, must not sit down with another party that implies that if it doesn't get its way, it is prepared to condone a return to violence."

Leading article, page 19

## Blair in appeal to Labour's Clause 4 doubters

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TEN to fifteen constituencies are expected to seal Tony Blair's fate at the Scottish Labour Party conference tomorrow in what is likely to be a knife-edge vote on the rewriting of Clause Four.

Tonight the trade unions, which hold 70 per cent of the vote, will meet to decide whether they will back the Labour leader in his attempt to scrap the party's commitment to nationalisation. They are said to be evenly split.

Campaigners against change, who are confident of defeating Mr Blair, will make a final effort to gather support for their cause at a rally in Inverness tonight led by the left-wing MP Tony Benn.

Party sources claim that the constituencies, with 30 per cent of the vote, are also evenly split, with ten to fifteen undecided. Those that have still to decide include Robin Cook's Livingston constituency, Lindithgow (Tam Dalyell) and Strathkelvin and Bearsden (Sam Galbraith).

Mr Blair will do his best to influence them with a last-ditch appeal tomorrow afternoon, an hour before delegates vote. He will emphasise the need to make the party electable by modernising the party's constitution.

Yesterday most MPs at a meeting of the parliamentary Labour party backed Mr Blair's proposed rewriting of Clause Four. Only two MPs are said to have opposed him, although two Scottish MPs, Michael Connarty (Falkirk East) and Malcolm Chisholm (Edinburgh Leith), expressed their reservations.

Mr Blair hinted at the final wording of the new Clause Four by insisting that there should be some publicly owned services as well as "a strong and competitive private sector". He told the meeting that both parts must make up "a properly regulated dynamic market economy". Anyone could vote for Clause Four as it stood but it would not represent the policies of the next Labour government.

The Transport and General Workers' Union will oppose Mr Blair tomorrow while the public service union Union will back him. The CMB union, which is expected to support Mr Blair at a special conference on April 29, will abstain tomorrow, which could be enough to defeat him.

## MPs' sleaze inquiry faces long delay

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

ONE of the Commons inquiries into cash-for-questions allegations against Tory MPs faces an indefinite delay because of a blocking action by a Labour MP.

Yesterday the Commons Members' Interests Committee reported Dale Campbell-Savours to Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, for repeated breaches of Commons rules by interrupting private meetings of the committee.

The committee, investigating allegations against the former Corporate Affairs Min-

ister Neil Hamilton, is now seeking a Commons ruling to bar Mr Campbell-Savours, the MP for Workington, from its meetings. A Commons debate on his conduct is the next step and the committee will not try to meet again before Mr Newton has decided whether to put the issue to a Commons vote. But with the Government reluctant to give Labour MPs the chance to make further allegations about Tory "sleaze", Mr Newton will not hurry to invite MPs to pass judgment on Mr Campbell-Savours. Commit-

tee members concede that the arguments may lead to a long delay.

It is the second time within a month that the MP has disrupted the committee's work. Although he is entitled to attend private meetings of the committee, he has breached Commons rules by interrupting proceedings. Among his complaints is the unusual Tory decision to place Andrew Mitchell, a government whip, on the committee, which Labour says puts undue pressure on Tory committee members. Before the latest delay, the

committee was close to reaching a decision on whether disciplinary action should be taken against Mr Hamilton, who failed to declare a stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris as a guest of Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

"The other inquiry, by the Commons Privileges Committee, is to resume its discussions next Monday on what action to take against three Tory MPs — David Tredinnick, Graham Riddick and Bill Walker — who are accused of being willing to accept £1,000 for tabling Commons questions.

## I was careless, admits Butler



Butler: faced hostile questioning from MPs

THE Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, admitted last night that he had been careless in reporting a key part of his inquiry into alleged ministerial misconduct (Arthur Leathley writes).

Sir Robin also conceded that he had not been able to conduct a full investigation into allegations that Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary, had lied about a stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris. The Cabinet Secretary faced hostile questioning by Tory and Labour MPs over his role in the inquiry, set up by John Major, into whether Mr Aitken had had his hotel

bill paid for by a Saudi businessman. He was accused of jeopardising his role as impartial head of the Civil Service by carrying out an investigation with specific political motives.

During an intense hearing of the Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee, Sir Robin admitted that his formal report, submitted to the Prime Minister, was wrong to refer to the Aitken having paid his bill when Mrs Aitken had stayed at a separate hotel. "That was careless," he told MPs. He had been "lulled" in the situation of having to prepare a report so that "the Prime Minister should not be seen to be sitting on his hands".

Quentin Davies, a Tory committee member, pressed Sir Robin to explain why he had not interviewed anyone other than Mr Aitken and two other ministers accused of impropriety. "I did what I believe was necessary within my powers," Sir Robin said.

### IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: The Commons sat at 10am for backbench debates starting with The Prince's Youth Business Trust, opened by David Shaw (C, Dover), and continuing to Women's employment levels, opened by Anne Campbell (Lab, Cambridge). Questions to trade and industry ministers were followed by the Provision of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (Continuance) Order and the Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order. The Lords debated the 1995 Euro-

pean inter-governmental conference and the Legitimised Persons (Succession to Titles) Bill. TODAY: In the Commons, questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by debates on the South Africa Bill, all stages, and on the developing parliamentary broadcasting archives. The Lords will debate the Environment Bill and the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act (Continuance or Extension) Order.

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# Asylum ruling on Saudi dissident risks Riyadh fury

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

NUHAMMAD al-Massari, a leading Saudi Islamist dissident, has won an appeal against a Home Office decision refusing him political asylum in Britain.

The independent judgment by the Immigration Appeals Tribunal is a spectacular and embarrassing rebuff to the Government, which has come under heavy pressure from Saudi Arabia to deport Dr al-Massari. Huge contracts depend on Saudi goodwill, and King Fahd has personally lobbied John Major and Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, to deny Dr al-Massari asylum. The Saudis are likely to react furiously to the tribunal's decision.

Dr al-Massari, who has attacked the Saudi royal family as corrupt and called on his followers to demonstrate against what he calls government oppression, heads a London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which sends regular faxes to Islamic dissidents in Saudi Arabia. He came to

London last year from Yemen, after escaping from Saudi Arabia, where several members of his family have subsequently been imprisoned.

The Home Office argued that the basis of his asylum appeal was invalid, since he came from a third country, Yemen, which could offer him safe haven. The appeal tribunal, however, agreed with him that Yemen, where Saudi Arabia has a strong influence, was not a safe place, and that his life would be endangered if he were returned. The Home Office has a week to appeal against the ruling. If it stands, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will be obliged to consider the substance of Dr al-Massari's asylum application.

The hearing was heard in person by the deputy chief adjudicator, indicating the enormous political sensitivity of the high-profile case. The Government has been embarrassed by the case, and is alarmed that London is increasingly seen as a haven for

Muslim fundamentalists. David Gore-Booth, the British Ambassador in Saudi Arabia, has strongly supported moves to deny Dr al-Massari asylum in Britain.

Dr al-Massari said through his solicitors yesterday that he had always had full faith in Britain's judiciary. However, his fight to remain is far from over. The Home Office can appeal to the next level of the tribunal, involving a full panel of three adjudicators, and if it loses again it can seek leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal. The procedure can go to the House of Lords before Mr Howard is obliged to look at the substance of the claim that Dr al-Massari's life or freedom are in danger in Saudi Arabia. The entire appeals procedure can then start again.

Technically, the Foreign Office has no influence on the proceedings, although Mr Howard would have been expected to seek the advice of Mr Hurd and M15 before making his initial decision.

## Plans for Jerusalem festivities criticised

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN ELABORATE and controversial 34 million shekel (£7.3 million) scheme to celebrate the 3,000th anniversary of "the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of the kingdom of Israel by King David" was unveiled yesterday amid great criticism.

The 15-month round of festivities due to start in September and run through the whole of 1996 is being organised jointly by the right-wing dominated Jerusalem municipality and the centre-left Government of Yitzhak Rabin, which, in May 1996, is due to begin negotiations with the Palestinians on the final status of the Holy City.

Among the names who have agreed to participate are Franco Zeffirelli, the film director, who will mount a *son et lumière*; Daniel Barenboim, who will conduct *Fidelio* under the Old City walls; and Zubin Mehta who will lead the Israel Philharmonic in a gala concert dedicated to King David. Barbra Streisand and Whitney Houston have also been asked to perform.

The plans have been attacked by ultra-Orthodox politicians who dismiss them as being performed largely by non-Jews, of giving a Hollywood-style image and of even commemorating the wrong date. Avaraham Yeger, of the United Tora Judaism party, claimed that the anniversary was being staged 136 years too early.

The celebration has also been attacked for ignoring the Palestinians. Ehud Olmert, the right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, claimed that efforts had been made to allow for both Muslim and Christian sensibilities.



An Iraqi child receives a polio vaccine from the United Nations Children's Fund in Baghdad at the start of a campaign to inoculate 3.5 million children

## UN condemns Iraq 'terror'

Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Commission condemned Iraq yesterday for "massive and extremely grave" violations of human rights and pinned the blame on the Government of President Saddam Hussein.

In a resolution adopted by 31 votes to one with 21 abstentions, the UN's highest hu-

man rights forum decried "an all-pervasive order of repression and oppression" that is sustained by "widespread terror".

Accusations against the Iraqi government included:

- Summary and arbitrary executions and mass executions.
- Widespread and routine torture in its most cruel forms.

□ Anti-crime decrees prescribing mutilation for offences such as petty theft or desertion, and the abuse of medical services to carry out such mutilations.

The commission also condemned Iran for continuing rights violations including torture and excessive use of the death penalty. (Reuter)

## Chinese scrape by in vote on rights

By JONATHAN MIRSKY

CHINA survived by one vote an unprecedented United Nations resolution yesterday condemning its human rights record.

The resolution was defeated by 21 to 20 with 12 abstentions; it was the first time in five years that Peking had been unable to block such a resolution coming to a vote.

The resolution "expressed concern at continuing reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in China".

The deciding vote at the Geneva meeting of the Human Rights Commission came from the Russians, who joined with some Third World nations which had undergone intense Chinese lobbying.

The Russians had voted on Tuesday night against the Chinese move to block the resolution, making the vote 22-22 and for the first time bringing a possible condemnation of Peking to the fore.

Tuesday night's vote was an embarrassment for Peking and the one yesterday will also be felt as a humiliation. "This is the first time the US has really applied some muscle," Robby Barnett, of the London-based Tibet Information Network, said. "Before, the Americans had always appeared to support a human rights move against Peking but they never really followed through."

The Tuesday night vote against Peking included countries outside the Western block such as Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

Until this year's vote the Chinese had always claimed they were victims of Western attempts to intrude into their national sovereignty, although at this year's meeting Peking had condemned the United States for racism.

"Permanent members of the Security Council are no longer immune from criticism," Gyaltsen Gyaltag, the Tibetan representative at the Geneva meeting, said.

Sir Henry Steele, Britain's Ambassador, noted on Tuesday night that neither the United States nor the Russians had tried to block resolutions condemning their human rights records.

## Arabs flock for billy goat elixir

OPTIMISTIC Palestinians are flocking to the occupied West Bank village of Siniya to buy milk produced by a hermaphrodite goat, named Abu Mosaad (the Father of Hope), which they are convinced will cure impotence and sterility (Christopher Walker writes).

The goat, with male genitalia, recently developed an odder, producing the milk that is now in demand. Local

lore perpetuates myths that such freaks of nature grant supernatural powers. The beast's fame greatly increased when it was featured in a report on CNN, the American-based television network.

The demand for the goat's milk has proved lucrative for its Arab owner, Mufeed Sheikh, 38. He says he earns about £90 a day — more than what most Palestinians earn in a week — selling cupfuls of

the milk. "I do not need to work in Israel any more," he told reporters.

Ahmed Harashe, 33, was one customer expecting to gain from his purchase of a cupful last week, after a wait of ten days. He is hoping the milk will cure him of sterility after 15 years of a childless marriage. "I feel stronger during sex," he reported yesterday. "But it is too early to tell yet if my wife is pregnant."

## Korean leader presses Major for backing to win Security Council seat

By MICHAEL BINYON

SOUTH KOREA'S President, Kim Young Sam, arrived in London yesterday at the start of a high-profile visit that is expected to boost booming trade and confirm Britain as a leading recipient of Korean industrial investment.

At a Downing Street meeting he

sought John Major's support for Korea's campaign to win a two-year term on the United Nations Security Council, saying this would give Seoul a chance to show its gratitude for the military help it received from the United Nations during the 1950-53 Korean War.

Mr Major said that Britain would give "careful consideration" to Pres-

ident Kim's request. To back up his campaign to win the nomination against Sri Lanka, the other contender, the Korean leader said that he was fully prepared to deploy troops for UN peacekeeping operations. President Kim arrived yesterday from Bonn, where he also sought the backing of the German Government, and will continue his

lobbying in Copenhagen, where he is going this weekend to attend the UN summit on social development.

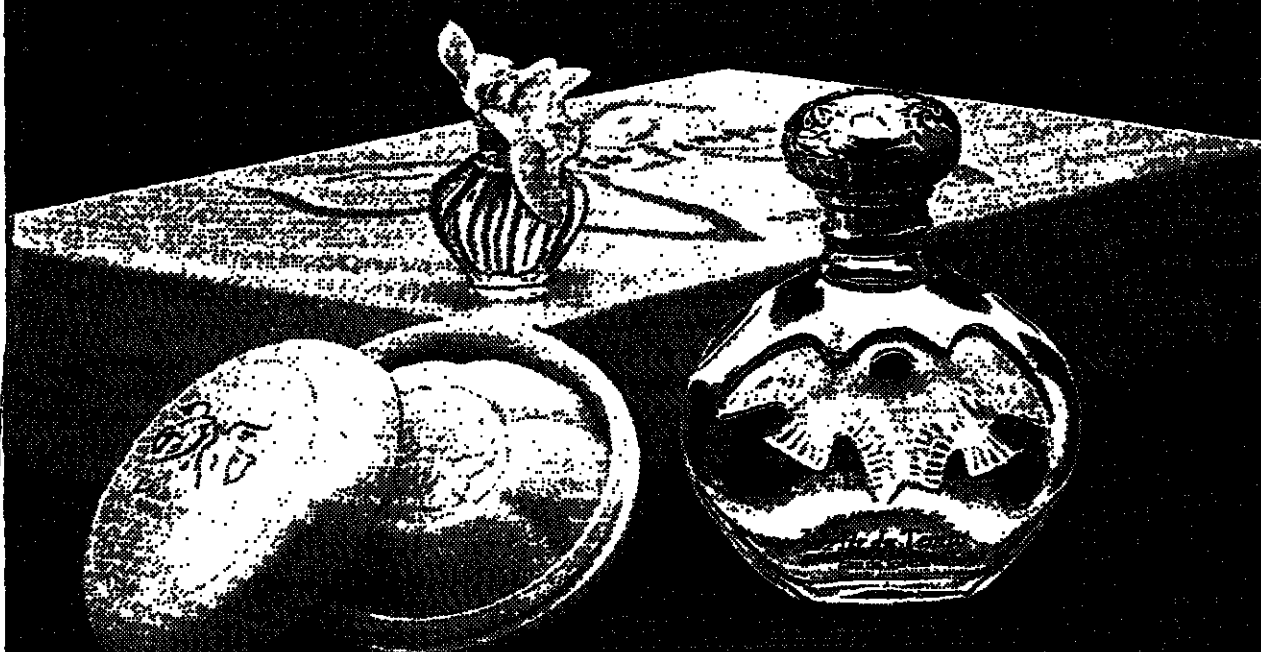
Mr Major and President Kim also discussed the negotiations to remove the nuclear threat by North Korea, which is to receive new nuclear reactors from a consortium of America, Japan and South Korea in return for a dismantling of its

energy programme, seen as a way of producing nuclear bombs. Mr Major promised to "urge Pyongyang to comply fully with the agreement", according to the President's spokesman.

The Government is making much of this visit as Britain has won 30 per cent of South Korea's investment and bilateral trade is now

worth £2 billion. However, the Koreans are chagrined that this is not a state visit, and to compensate Britain is making much of the ceremonial aspects. Today the Lord Mayor of London will give a luncheon at which guests will wear morning dress. Yesterday Mrs Kim was received by the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

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## Balladur suffers new setback over share deals

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRESH controversy was threatening Edouard Balladur's attempt to become French President last night after it emerged that he had earned 2.5 million francs (about £312,000) from share dealings just before his appointment as Prime Minister in 1993.

Although M. Balladur's office insisted that he had done nothing illegal, the disclosures will be used by opponents to tarnish further his carefully-constructed image of integrity. The revelations in yesterday's edition of the satirical weekly, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, could hardly have been less opportune. A front-runner in the presidential race, M. Balladur, 65, had been knocked off his stride by a recent telephone-tapping scandal and a spat with the United States over CIA espionage.

The report in *Le Canard Enchaîné* threw him back on to the defensive just as he was trying to breathe new life into his campaign. The Prime Minister said he was "indignant" at what he called "a manifest attempt to harm

me". The magazine said that in the three years before he became Prime Minister, M. Balladur earned 7 million francs, including more than 5 million as the result of his links to a computer firm named GSI.

Just over half the money was a salary, paid in return for advice on important dossiers, while the remainder came from the sale of shares in the company, of which he was President from 1977 until he entered politics as Economy Minister in 1986.

With M. Balladur already facing accusations that his bourgeois background makes him incapable of understanding ordinary Frenchmen, the disclosure of his hefty income is highly embarrassing. Worse, however, are the doubts about its true origins.

Yesterday, for instance, *Le Monde* openly questioned the Prime Minister's assertions that he had worked for GSI between 1988 and 1993, hinting that his "advice" was fictitious and the "salary" little more than a present.

Further, *Le Canard*



Edouard Balladur, right, and Roland Dumas who was sworn in as Constitutional Council President yesterday

*Enchaîné* alleged that the shares sold by M. Balladur at a profit of 2.5 million francs in 1993 had not been bought on the open market over the previous five years as he says. Rather, the newspaper suggested, when he became Economy Minister he handed part of his stock to a friend, enabling him to claim — falsely — that he had divested himself of all interest in GSI.

When his Gaullist party lost office two years later, the shares were put under M. Balladur's name again, the article said. The newspaper also said that some of the money stemmed from a share-option exercised in 1993 at about the same time as his Government introduced a reform making it possible to earn quick profits from such dealings. If the newspaper's allegations are correct, there was a clear conflict of interest.

In a statement, M. Balladur's office confirmed that he had made 2.5 million francs from the sale of GSI shares, but denied the rest of *Le Canard Enchaîné*'s accusations. His "concern has always been to separate public and private activity," the statement said.

However, rivals seized upon the issue to attack the increasingly embattled Prime Minister. Thierry Jean-Pierre, a supporter of the right-wing Eurosceptic candidate, Philippe de Villiers, said M. Balladur had "mixed national interest and individual interest. There is no criminal

Charles Bremner, page 18

## MPs vote to replace Greek president

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

GREECE and its ailing Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreu, have been spared an unwanted general election, after MPs agreed to make Costas Stephanopoulos the country's new President.

He replaces Constantine Karamanlis, the grand old man of Greek politics.

The decision, by the narrowest of margins, ensures that Mr Papandreu and his Socialist party (Pasok) can remain in office until 1997.

Last night's vote was the third and final chance for Mr Papandreu to secure his choice for president. Failure to get 180 out of 300 possible votes would have automatically triggered a general election within 40 days.

Pasok has 170 MPs but victory was made possible by the support of the 11 members of Political Spring, the centre-right nationalist party, headed by Antonis Samaras, the former Foreign Minister.

Mr Samaras, once tipped as a possible Conservative party leader, may claim that he was acting in Greece's best interests, because the uncertainty and cost of an election could unsettle the frail economy.

But diehard conservatives consider his backing of the Socialists to be the ultimate act of treachery and he has probably scuppered any lingering ambitions of becoming Prime Minister.

Last night's session brought to a close the long and distinguished career of Mr Karamanlis, who was 88 yesterday. His term of office expires in May, but he appealed for the issue to be settled early in the interests of national stability.

Mr Karamanlis spent 14 years as Prime Minister and ten as President. His charisma and leadership qualities made him the only possible choice to bind Greece together after the collapse of the Colonels' military dictatorship in 1974. He ensured that democracy was not only restored but flourished.

Mr Stephanopoulos, 69, is a lawyer by profession and is a popular choice for President. Greeks like his integrity.

## EUROPEAN SUMMITS

### Russian linked to US gangs

Fano, Italy: A man reputed to be a leader of the Russian Mafia operating in New York city was arrested yesterday, Italian police said.

Monya Elson, 44, was captured at a hotel in the town of Fano on the Adriatic coast. Police said he was arrested on a warrant issued by authorities in New York, where he faces charges of murder, attempted murder, extortion and drug trafficking. They said Mr Elson, Russian-born but now a United States citizen, was alleged to be the leader of a gang of the Russian Mafia in the Brooklyn section of New York City. (Reuters)

### Polish police to continue protest

Warsaw: The Polish police force decided to continue with its month-long protest despite urgent steps by Józef Oleksy's new leftist Government to crack down on rampant crime. The force has been promised more officers to fight crime and additional funds, two of their demands in the face of growing organised crime. Last year, 1,160 murders were committed in Poland, which has a population of 39 million. (AP)

### Opposition waits to lead Estonia

Tallinn: Tiit Vähi, Estonia's centrist opposition leader, awaited presidential approval to form the next government after winning the biggest share of parliamentary seats in the country's second general election. "The ball is now in President Meri's court," said a spokesman for Mr Vähi's centrist Coalition Party. The final vote count was expected later yesterday. (Reuters)

### Explorer dies

Papeete, Tahiti: Paul-Emile Victor, the French explorer who documented the Earth's polar wilderness, died on the South Pacific island, Bora Bora, at 87. (Reuters)

Obituary, page 11

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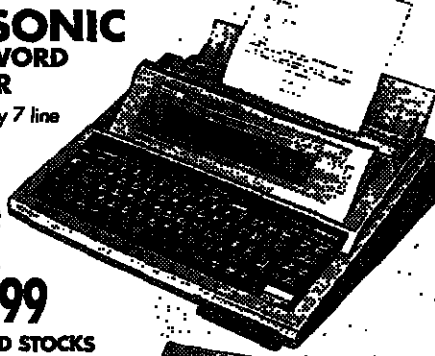
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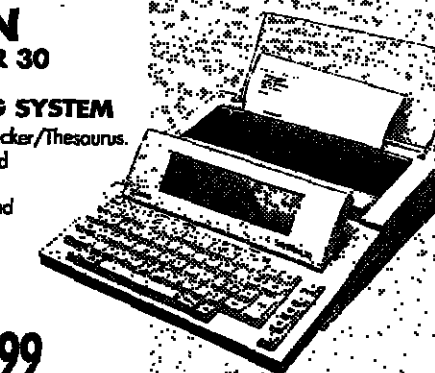
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## THE TIMES 20p deals for Europe



Amsterdam: a canal tour is the ideal way to see the city

APRIL is an ideal time of the year to visit Amsterdam, and this week's offers from *The Times* will enable you to drive there cheaply with Le Shuttle, give you £20 of duty-free goods for 20p — and offer a special language deal with Linguaphone.

Linguaphone is the world's leading language tuition company. Collect the tokens which are appearing each day until Monday and you could buy up to three Traveller's Guides for just 20p each.

Traveller's Guides are available in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Greek and Portuguese; they contain a 70-minute bilingual cassette and a printed guide to useful words and phrases. Buy one for £2.79, collect two tokens and you will be entitled to buy a second guide for just 20p.

With your guides you will receive a voucher worth £50 if you buy a full Linguaphone course. Full details of this offer, plus an application form, appeared on Tuesday.

The normal price for a five-day short break return crossing through the Channel tunnel on Le Shuttle in April is up to £150 — but we have pegged it at the winter rate of £75 until the end of the month for a car, driver and passengers. Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing each day until Monday and complete the form which appeared on Tuesday and you will also qualify for the special duty-free offer.

Travel must be completed by April 30 1995 and excludes April 14, 15 and 16. You must book at least ten days before you intend to travel. Full terms and conditions appeared on Tuesday.

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# General in Belgian bribe case found dead

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

A RETIRED Belgian Air Force general recently questioned over a widening political scandal about murder, bribery and armaments contracts was found dead in an hotel yesterday after apparently taking his own life. Hotel staff said that two suicide notes were found.

The general's death is likely to dislodge a fresh cascade of information, renew claim and counterclaim over Belgium's bribes-for-helicopters scandal that has caused the resignation of three ministers, havoc in two Socialist parties and a sharp fall in the reputation of the country's political class.

The daily stream of new allegations is bound to increase pressure on the Belgian secretary-general of Nato, Willy Claes, to resign when he returns from an official trip to Washington later this week. Mr Claes and several of his colleagues in the Flemish Socialist Party have admitted hearing that their party was offered a bribe. They have said that they neither accepted the money nor reported the approach to the authorities.

A White House spokesman said that there had been no discussion of Mr Claes's position at Nato when he met President Clinton on Tuesday. The body of General Jacques Lefebvre, 64, was found yesterday in a hotel room he had booked for a single night.

"It appears as if it was suicide," a spokesman for the public prosecutor's office said. Six small bottles of whisky were found next to the body but, according to Belgian radio, there was no sign of violence, drugs or firearms. General Lefebvre was head of the Belgian Air Force in 1988

when several international manufacturers were competing to sell attack and reconnaissance helicopters to Belgium. General Lefebvre's home was searched and he was interviewed by investigators a fortnight ago, and was likely to face further questioning.

A director of one of the companies used to pay bribes told the inquiry this week that he had been in contact with the general over the helicopter contract. The allegations were widely reported in the Belgian media on the evening that General Lefebvre checked into the hotel close to his home.

A three-and-a-half year inquiry prompted by the murder of a prominent politician in Liège has led to a brace of corruption charges and the detention of a number of high-ranking Belgian officials including the man who headed Mr Claes's office at the Economics Ministry in 1988. Trials of two French-speaking Socialist ministers who resigned their jobs when they came under suspicion will start later this year.

A nervous and battered political establishment awaits a general election in two months' time with trepidation. Polls suggest that the far Right will gain from the stories of hidden political networks, Swiss bank accounts and murder conspiracies. The Agusta helicopters affair is rarely off the airwaves or the front pages of Belgian newspapers.

Before General Lefebvre's body was found yesterday, investigators had been looking into claims that a prominent Belgian politician took part in a meeting to organise the murder of a fellow member of the party.



Pro-communists marching through Moscow on Women's Day

## Russians praise their unliberated women

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE plight of Russia's long-suffering women was set aside for a few hours yesterday as mothers, wives and girlfriends were showered with flowers and chocolates in a Soviet-era ritual.

International Women's Day, supposed to celebrate the emancipation of women under socialism, has thrived as a national holiday in Russia, where everyone from President Yeltsin to orbiting cosmonauts, took time out yesterday to praise the fairer sex.

"All of us must remember how much effort it cost our mothers to put us on our feet," said the Russian leader in his annual message. "Do not forget to visit them today and thank them for their selfless love."

In spite of the kind words, however, Russia's women have little to celebrate this year as further evidence emerges that they have been taking the brunt of the country's economic turmoil and are suffering most from an exploding crime wave. "Women's Day is nothing more than an excuse for men to absolve themselves of their dismal behaviour the rest of the year," wrote Betsy McKay, a columnist, in *Moscow Times*. "They make the ritual motions of presenting flowers and candy, then grab a bottle of vodka and sit back while

the women slave in the kitchen over the expected holiday dinner."

A report by Human Rights Watch, released today, says that Russia's women are unfairly discriminated against in the workplace. The report says that two-thirds of the growing population of unemployed are women, with the figure rising to more than 85 per cent in some regions. A large part of the problem is blamed on the Government, which encourages employers to cut female staff instead of men. Valeri Yanvarov, the Deputy Minister of Social Affairs, said: "Women often have ill children. They worry about their households and other traditional women's issues. Employers may think it better to hire slightly less-qualified men."

□ Chechnya march: A group of Russian soldiers' mothers, Buddhist monks and anti-war activists set off yesterday for Grozny to protest against the continuing war in Chechnya. The group, numbering about 200, left the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Kremlin to travel by car to the southern Russian city of Mineralniye Vody, stopping to pick up more demonstrators and hold rallies along the way. They will then walk the remaining 200 miles to Grozny. (AP)

## Shooting disturbs UN summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

MYSTERY divers allegedly opened fire on a Danish policeman patrolling the coast near Copenhagen International Airport at dawn yesterday. The incident led to a land and sea search casting a shadow over the third day of the United Nations Summit for Social Development here.

Danish police said that one of their officers opened fire in the dark on what he thought was a group of divers near the airport's hydrofoil terminal. The officer believed he heard them shoot in his direction as they waded ashore near the heavily guarded site of the UN meeting, attended yesterday by Hillary Clinton, America's First Lady.

Annemette Moller, Copenhagen's Deputy Police Commissioner, played down the possibility of a terrorist attack.

The summit marked International Women's Day yesterday with calls from dozens of countries for greater equality, issued against a background of official statistics that show women are the biggest victims of poverty. Of the world's 1.2 billion poor, up to 70 per cent are women. Mrs Clinton addressed the summit for a second time, unveiling a \$100 million American plan to help educate poverty-stricken children.

## Bangladesh outraged by Zhirinovskiy call

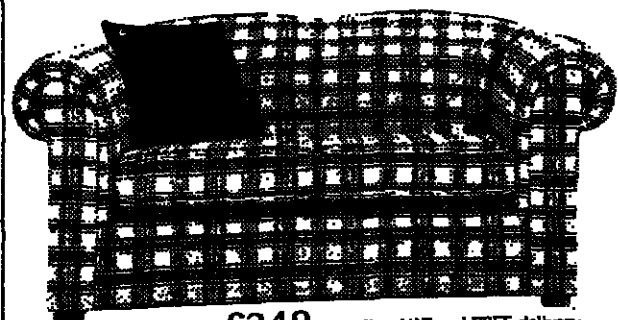
Dhaka: Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian ultra-nationalist, came under fire yesterday in Bangladesh after implicitly calling on India to annex the South Asian state. The Dhaka Government and political groups condemned the controversial Russian politician's statement. Mustafizur Rahman, the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, said he was "surprised and shocked" by Mr Zhirinovskiy's remarks. "Bangladesh has emerged and will

stay as an independent country," Mr Rahman said.

Mr Zhirinovskiy, on a visit to India, called on Monday for Delhi to effectively annex Pakistan and Bangladesh, saying "I am opposed to any artificial division of the country." Both countries were once part of India under British rule.

Eduard Shevchenko, the Russian Ambassador here, expressed his "deep regret" over the matter, the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry said. (AFP)

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# Gingrich denounces 'socialist' press critics

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN AN attempt to win Washington's propaganda war, Newt Gingrich has taken the offensive against the Democrats and launched a broadside assault on every element of America's liberal establishment.

Mr Gingrich branded the media the mortal enemy of reform-minded Republicans and accused the White House of building a bloated bureaucracy that needed to be replaced.

Facing some of the toughest criticism yet of the *Contract with America*, particularly Republican initiatives to reform the welfare system, the Speaker of the House has lashed out at those liberals who, he said, believed that "if you don't give every child a Ferrari you're cheating them".

Mr Gingrich has excluded almost nobody from his latest blitz. School projects that dealt with homosexuals and lesbians, he said yesterday, were a thinly-veiled attempt at recruitment by the gay community. Protesters who disrupted a lunch he was attending in Washington ear-

lier this week were characterised as layabouts who wanted to extort money from the American taxpayer. "Why weren't they at work? Who are they? Who paid them?" he demanded.

During a private dinner this week, the powerful Congressman told a group of businessmen that the editorial boards of many newspapers contained "socialists" and that serious consideration should be given by corporations to whether they should advertise in publications holding opposing views. "I think it is perfectly legitimate in a free society for people to decide where they will put their money and their impact," Mr Gingrich said in a later television interview.

He declined to name the "socialists" but added: "I would be glad to get you a collection of editorials that only make sense if people believe that government is good and the free market is bad," he said. "Surely you can't really argue that there are not a substantial number of news editorial pages that start from an extraordinary



Newt Gingrich, Speaker in the House of Representatives, fielding questions from reporters at a Capitol Hill news conference

pro-government, anti-free market bias."

Mr Gingrich's launched his attack as more moderate Republicans began privately to express fears that cuts in welfare programmes may have helped to fuel charges from the White House of right-wing insensitivity. In recent

weeks, congressional Republicans have attempted to entirely restructure schemes for school lunches and cash welfare assistance, as well as proposing the abandonment of the current system of public housing and the elimination of most benefits for illegal immigrants. Yesterday, a commit-

tee approved legislation to alter radically the food-stamp programme for 27 million poor, mainly black, Americans. The proposed Bill would cut spending on food stamps by \$16 billion (£10 billion) over the next five years and brought immediate condemnation from the Democrats

who invoked images of starving children with distended stomachs.

Tony Blankley, spokesman for Mr Gingrich, acknowledged that the Speaker had been annoyed by the flood of criticism over the latest measures in the *Contract with America*. "Our point is, who is

being callous? Is it the people responsible for the conditions that the poor live in today, or the people trying to fix that?" he said. "We are the people trying to fix that. For those responsible for these problems to claim some moral high ground is repugnant. We reject that."

## Star witness in terror trial admits he is liar and fraud

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE star government witness in the biggest terrorism trial in American history took the stand for the first time this week and promptly confessed to being an inveterate liar, braggart and fraud.

Emad Salem, a 45-year-old FBI informant, is the linchpin in the Government's efforts to prove that Shaikh Omar Abdel Rahman, a blind cleric, and ten other Muslims, planned a "war of urban terrorism" against the United States by bombing numerous New York landmarks.

Mr Salem, who infiltrated the radical group, is being paid more than \$1 million (£625,000) by the FBI for his testimony. By owning up to his past untruths, he appar-

ently hopes to pre-empt defence claims that he is a hopelessly unreliable witness. Under oath on Tuesday, he nervously admitted telling a litany of lies to the FBI, immigration officials and even his wife. A former major in the Egyptian Army, he confessed to building a fantasy career as an intelligence agent.

He told the FBI he knew Arabic leaders, including Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, had access to atomic secrets, and claimed to have been wounded trying to protect the former Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, when he was assassinated. These, he confessed, were just "bragging stories". "I tried to maintain myself as a big shot," he said.

The trial is the second stemming from the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre, in which six people died.

Shaikh Omar and his co-defendants are charged with a conspiracy to bomb the United Nations, the FBI headquarters in New York, and two tunnels under the Hudson River. They are also accused of involvement in the assassination of Rabbi Meir Kahane and another plot to assassinate President Mubarak of Egypt.

The defence is expected to claim that Mr Salem, who left Egypt in 1987 and began working for the FBI in 1991, set out to entrap the blind cleric and his followers in a scheme engineered by the FBI.

## NYPD's nude gets the sack

New York: A woman police officer has been sacked for posing in *Playboy* magazine — but it was what she kept on rather than what she took off which cost her the job (Ben Macintyre writes).

Police Commissioner William Bratton said that Officer Carol Shaya-Castro, 26, had violated police rules by wearing, if only partially, her police uniform in photographs in the August issue. "She was using her uniform for personal gain," he said.

Ms Shaya-Castro was paid \$100,000 (£61,000) for posing under the headline "NYPD Nude". The Commissioner did not say if she would have kept her Bronx patrol job if she had removed her uniform completely.

## Brother of murdered Mexican politician seeks US asylum

BY DAVID ADAMS, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF the men at the centre of Mexico's political scandals, Mario Ruiz Massieu, former deputy Attorney-General, is seeking asylum in the United States because he says he fears for his life at home.

He neglected to mention that his bank account may also be in danger after Mexican investigators said that \$6.9 million (about £4 million) had been found in his account with a Houston bank. Mexican sources say that other overseas bank accounts in his name hold another \$10 million. The unexplained deposits are the latest episode in a saga that has gripped Mexicans. Señor Ruiz Massieu has been charged with covering up the murder of his brother, José

Ruiz Massieu, the former Secretary-General of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who was shot dead in a Mexico City street last September.

The death of the party's number two official convulsed the nation, coming only a few months after Luis Donaldo Colosio, the PRI presidential candidate, was assassinated at a campaign rally in March. José Ruiz Massieu had taken on the mantle of a reformer who planned to clean out PRI corruption. Mario Ruiz Massieu, a prosecutor who had been in charge of drug investigations, was appointed by Carlos Salinas, then President, to head the investigation into his brother's death. A

month later he resigned, accusing top PRI officials of obstructing his efforts. Last week he published a book detailing his allegations.

But now Señor Ruiz Massieu is accused of shielding the former President's elder brother, Raul Salinas. On Monday Señor Salinas was charged with ordering and paying for José Ruiz Massieu's murder. Mario Ruiz Massieu was arrested in New Jersey on Friday after arriving with his family. He is charged with failing to declare that he was carrying \$50,000 in cash. A former Mexican drug investigator who worked under Mario Ruiz Massieu has also accused him of having links to drug traffickers.

## Banker 'taunted for being British'

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A BRITISH banker has filed a \$30 million (£18 million) lawsuit in New York against his French boss, claiming that he was sacked after suffering persistent discrimination because of his nationality.

Russell Deakin, 29, from London, has accused George Courtadon, managing director at The Canadian Bank of Imperial Commerce in Manhattan, of creating "a hostile work environment" with his incessant anti-British remarks.

Mr Deakin, who was dismissed from his \$335,000-a-year job as the investment bank's vice-president six weeks ago, maintains that Mr Courtadon called him "uncultured", "lazy" and a "chick" because he was English, while also implying that he might be homosexual.

"Repeated and constant remarks by Courtadon... about his British national origin and background" traumatised the English banker to the extent that he required medical treatment for emotional damage, the suit alleges.

Mr Deakin, who joined the bank in July 1994, claims that Mr Courtadon engineered an excuse to fire him and made false public accusations that Mr Deakin had stolen "the proprietary software that belongs to the bank".

In court papers filed in Manhattan state Supreme Court, the English banker listed a catalogue of anti-British jibes allegedly made by the Frenchman, including suggestions that "The French work harder than the English", and "You English have terrible food".

Among the more bizarre taunts attributed to Mr Courtadon is the observation that the Channel tunnel "will allow English hooligans to go to France to get drunk", and another, allegedly aimed at Mr Deakin's Brazilian wife, suggesting that Brazilian women "run around in small bikinis, are easy women, and are morally loose".

The writ claims other English employees at the bank suffered from nationalist goading. "British employees... were constantly derided about their race and national origin in contrast to their counterpart employees of French origin," it claims.

Mr Courtadon refused to comment, but a bank spokesman said the lawsuit would be contested.

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Dangers from listeriosis □ How background can affect heart disease in women □ A more user-friendly treatment for high blood pressure



**THE SAGA** of Mr Humphrey Errington's Lanark Blue cheese continues. Lanark Blue is a popular farmhouse cheese which was stocked by Harrods and bought by Buckingham Palace. But on December 2 last year the public health authorities struck. The cheese contained *Listeria monocytogenes*, the organism that causes listeriosis. Mr Errington was told to withdraw his cheese from the market. He has applied successfully for a judicial review, but it does not find in his favour. He loses large sums of money and his trade; we lose a delicious cheese from the cheeseboard.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has rigid standards: more than 1,000 *Listeria* organisms per gram and a cheese is considered potentially hazardous. A possible risk to some people cannot be denied, but the size of this risk to the general public needs analysis. *Listeria* is widespread in mammals, both domestic and wild as well as in many species of birds and fishes. It can be found in the

## Hard lessons of soft cheese

air and in water, and survives well in grassland and in silage.

Some surveys have shown that up to 30 per cent of healthy humans have *Listeria* in their guts, and others carry it in their noses and mouths; it can be transmitted by sexual intercourse. *Listeria* has even been cultured from human as well as cows' milk. The strains of *Listeria* are of varying virulence.

An attack of listeriosis can be very serious. As well as a transient attack of diarrhoea, *Listeria* can cause meningitis, encephalitis, skin sepsis, and a particularly



**MEDICAL BRIEFING**  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

nasty form of pneumonia — but fortunately it usually doesn't. Most people are no more likely than wild animals to suffer ill-effects from carrying it, but there are some groups who are very vulnerable and this explains the public health officials' course of action.

In pregnancy women's resistance to *Listeria monocytogenes* is very low. If infected, they can suffer a severe attack

during the actual pregnancy and a relapse again after delivery. Their babies are likely to become infected; the incidence of infection in newborn babies in Britain is put at

one in 18,000 live births but about a third of infected babies are born dead. Many of those who survive are usually premature births and develop septicaemia, pneumonia and meningitis. Other groups at risk include the immunologically compromised, whether as a result of drugs (including all steroids) or from intercurrent illnesses, including malignant disease and Aids.

The question which will have to be decided is whether the danger of listeriosis would be better reduced — it cannot be removed — by banning soft farmhouse cheeses or by publicising the potential risks to vulnerable groups of people, and the need for them to choose their cheese with care. This means that pregnant women, in particular, should reconcile themselves to being unadventurous when choosing cheese and being prepared to spend 40 weeks eating Edam or pasteurised cheddar.

*Listeria* is so widespread — more than half the chickens sold in the United Kingdom are contaminated — that there are no measures that could ever completely remove the chance of infection.

## Family hazard



RESEARCH has shown that women are less likely to have their chest pains investigated as thoroughly as men, and that when they have had a coronary thrombosis they are not followed up as carefully or treated with surgery so often. Recent research published in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* gives some indication of the probable early background of women who are most at risk of developing heart disease in later life.

Even after allowance has been made for the possibility that the patient's mother may have had a restricted diet during pregnancy, that the patient may have had a low birth weight and poor weight gain in her early months, and that later risk factors such as smoking and lack of exercise have been taken into account, it was still found that the socioeconomic background of the patient's father was an important predictor of the

likelihood of having coronary heart disease.

A study of 117,000 American nurses shows that nurses whose fathers were manual workers were 50 per cent more likely to have evidence of coronary heart disease, and 25 per cent more likely to have an actual heart attack, than were those born with the proverbial silver spoon in their mouths. Poor nutrition in later childhood is blamed.

## Raised hope



DESPITE the behaviour of Chelsea fans on the continent last week, Dr Pieter Timmermans, a Dutch pharmacologist who works in Holland, Britain and the United States for Du Pont Merck, still rates watching English football clubs as one of his great pleasures. Dr Timmermans' enthusiasm is not confined to football. In charge of research at Du Pont Merck, he is equally ebullient about its latest product, Cozaar (losartan potassium), which is being launched this

month for the treatment of hypertension. The control of high blood pressure became safer and more efficient with the introduction of the thiazide diuretics in the 1950s, and the beta-blockers ten years later. Both remain useful drugs, but they have troublesome side-effects that discourage some patients from taking treatment.

Calcium channel blockers and ACE-inhibitors have been available for the past ten years. ACE-inhibitors are particularly useful when there is some heart failure but they do have some side-effects, including a dry cough. Cozaar, the new hypotensive agent, is classified as an angiotensin II receptor antagonist; at this stage it appears to have fewer side-effects than other hypotensive agents and hence it is hoped the patients will take it regularly.

If Cozaar proves as effective as has been claimed in lowering blood pressure — and does not, like some of the other drugs used, cause impotence, cough, swollen legs, flushed faces, asthma or a raised cholesterol — Dr Timmermans' confidence will have been well founded.

## Ian Robertson on the good and bad side of sensory deprivation

I come to with a start in total darkness, suspended in a liquid warmth. Heart racing, my legs and arms thrash out for solidity. The rippling bath-sounds bring sudden recall — of the fact that I am lying naked, earplugged and sightless in a tank of Epsom salts in Clapham.

My pulse quickly returns to a drowsy beat, but nevertheless I feel refreshed, the way you do after a nap. The dreary torpor, which lying in ten inches of Dead Sea-density solution in a sauna-size chamber had induced, is stirred by a restlessness which I identify as a vague sense of silliness leavened by mild boredom.

I have come to the South London Natural Health Centre to try "restricted environmental stimulation therapy" — also known as "floatation tank" (sic), whose contemporary New Age-type trappings belie a 50-year history of scientific and political controversy involving, among others, British intelligence, the Pentagon and the KGB.

On August 9, 1971, internment was introduced in Northern Ireland. Of the 342 men arrested at 4.30am that morning, 12 were to receive treatment that led to an international outcry and to the

establishment of two high-level British government committees of inquiry.

The men were taken to an interrogation centre, where they were hooded in black bags of tightly woven cloth, and kept isolated in rooms filled with a constant noise "like the escaping of compressed air". They were isolated, dressed in boiler suits and made to stand against a wall, hands high above their heads and legs apart, for periods of up to 16 hours, with no sleep for the first two or three days.

The intelligence services of many countries had used aspects of these methods known as sensory deprivation and the KGB used similar techniques as standard softening-up treatment for prisoners destined for the show trials of Stalin's purges.

During the Korean War, however, sensory deprivation became headline news in America when US prisoners of war returned home, apparently having been brainwashed into pro-Communist views partly through sensory deprivation methods. This unleashed two decades of largely Pentagon-funded research into the psychological and physiological effects of sensory input to the human brain, involving some of the leading

## Relaxing in the torture chamber

neuropsychologists of the day in scientific debate and ultimately in political controversy.

What was new about the Northern Ireland situation was the refinement of this old KGB craft into what some considered to be a sinister and Orwellian science. Professor Tim Shallice, one of the world's leading neuropsychologists, protested in a 1970s edition of the journal *Cognition* that academic study of these methods was unethical because of the resulting misuse of the research for inhumane purposes.

But what precisely is so cruel about sensory deprivation? The human brain is

stimulus-hungry. For example, if an arm is amputated, the neurons in the brain which receive sensory input from that limb do not just stop firing — they change allegiance and begin to respond to the part of the body which neighbouring neurones represent.

Cutting off the human brain from meaningful and patterned sensory input does not stop the brain's activity, though research in the 1950s and 1960s did show slowing in brain activity, impairment of mental capacity and emotional disturbance after periods of as little as seven hours of

sensory deprivation. What sensory deprivation does do, however, is to let brain circuits starved of outside stimulation run free, leading in many cases to frightening auditory and visual hallucinations, distorted thinking and disorientation.

A psychiatrist who assessed three of the Northern Irish internees concluded that all of them had developed a psychosis during sensory deprivation, including hallucinations, loss of sense of time, depression and delusional beliefs, and thought that permanent mental damage had occurred to at least one of the men he assessed.

So what on earth are the 20 or so commercial floating tanks in Britain doing offering mental torture to innocent citizens for the purposes of healing and recreation?

The answer is quite simple: if one has complete control over the degree and duration of sensory deprivation — I can reach up and press the light switch or open the door any time I like — then the whole meaning and complexion of these free-wheeling brain circuits changes.

Not that I am having any hallucinations — much though the psychologist in me would love to experience them — but I am enjoying a deep and pleasant relaxation and a temporary release from the rack of time. OK, I confess I am at this moment having a



A customer unwinds in a floatation tank at the South London Natural Health Centre. What can this innocent New Age activity have to do with the KGB and Pentagon?

little paddle up and down the tank while coining lines for this article — but in between such bouts of self-stimulation, I am about as unwound as I think I can get.

The ratio of breathless prose to scientific evidence in this new health-oriented craze of restricted environmental stimulation is still embarrassingly high. Nevertheless, there are one or two academic studies in recent international journals

which tantalise the sceptical scientist with the possibility of positive health effects of this therapy — on lowering blood pressure for instance.

There is also a recent article in the respected journal *Psychological Medicine* suggesting improvements in tests sensitive to right-brain function as a result of 90 minutes in a floatation tank. This study was carried out by Jody Raab, currently doing her PhD in

this area at the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

If someone can replicate her work, then not only will I have to come back for a drowsy paddle, but I will also feel impelled to do some very unfashionable left-brain reasoning, trying to work out what on earth is going on in my brain during this very peculiar practice.

● The Floatation Tank Association, Tel: 0129 669 6300

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## The pounds that just won't fall off

We are beginning to understand why losing weight is so hard, says Nigel Hawkes

Is dieting hopeless? You might think so if you read the scientific literature. Last year, a gene that predisposes to obesity was discovered: now, a study from the Rockefeller University in New York, has shown that the body fights hard to reverse any change in body weight.

Many people who have tried and failed to lose weight by dieting will say they knew this all along but, unfortunately, the fact that their own metabolism predisposes them to fat does not help them deal with the consequences of being overweight. They would still be healthier, and probably live longer, if they could be thin.

These two Rockefeller studies have brought us closer to an understanding of what has long been a mysterious area: how the body controls weight. And the most remarkable feature is how well it works. The average person puts on just 10 per cent of their body weight over 20 years — the equivalent, as Dr William Bennett writes in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine*, of just a single carrot a day.

This supports the existence of powerful and effective mechanisms — one hesitates to call them feedback — that control body weight.

The latest study, also in the *NEJM*, shows that a 10 per cent loss in weight by dieting is accompanied by a 15 per cent reduction in energy expenditure by the body, which naturally tends to restore the body to its original weight.

Dr Bennett believes that we all have a kind of thermostat in our brains which is set to a particular fat level. When that level deviates, the "adipostat", as it has been called, can restore it in several ways: by increasing food intake or, more insidiously, by altering the efficiency of the metabolic processes so that less energy is burned up. It is even possible that, in some way, the adipostat also determines the amount of exercise we undertake.

But how does the body know what its fat level is? Here, the so-called obesity gene comes into the picture. The gene is

responsible for producing a protein which tells the central nervous system the state of the body's fat store. Clearly, any defects in the protein disrupt the process, leading to obesity — which is just what another team at Rockefeller discovered last year.

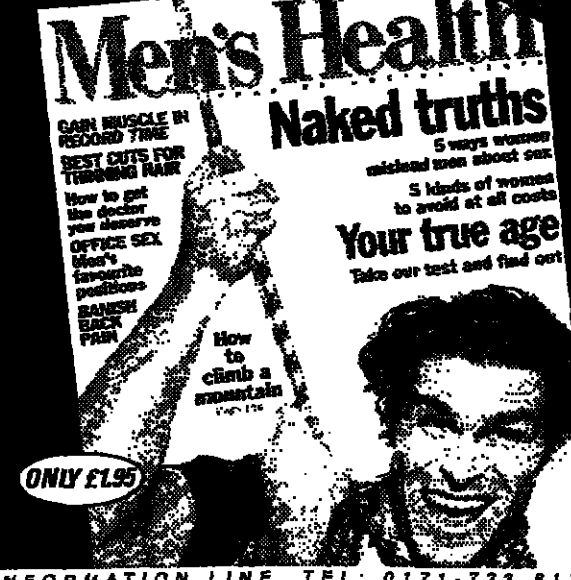
The key question is whether we can reset the adipostat. The

fact that it shifts slowly as we get older suggests that it may be open to adjustment — through diet, drugs, or physical activity. (Dr Bennett adds, tongue-in-cheek, a fourth possibility — brain surgery.) But the evidence is that the process is slow.

The final message is: a diet is not just for Lent, but for life.

## Everyone's talking about it!

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# Innocent in the eyes of God

Clarence Brandley, who almost died on death row, is one of the few Americans speaking out against the death penalty, says Martin Fletcher

Clarence Brandley's makeshift church occupies an old warehouse in a derelict area of south Houston. It is ringed by condemned housing, an abandoned bowling alley, a boarded-up bank and a thriving pawn shop. Inside, pinned to a wall, is an advertisement for the "U Go To Prison Transport Service", offering parishioners lifts to visit imprisoned relatives. From his rough wooden pulpit in this place he calls "God's house" Mr Brandley regularly denounces America's present passion for the death penalty.

"I hear all the politicians saying 'Let's kill more people,'" he told a congregation of four adults, five children and a ramshackle choir last Sunday. "They'll do or say anything to get a vote, but that's not going to stop the problem. What kind of Christians hang and kill people, then sing and praise God on Sundays?"

Mr Brandley, a 42-year-old hulk of a man with sad eyes and withdrawn manner, spoke with feeling. He had, after all, spent nine years on death row for a murder he never committed, and was twice within days of execution. He survived to tell the tale, but finds that in a country paranoid about violent crime very few want to listen. The debate on the merits of capital punishment is finished.

Mr Brandley may be living proof that America's system of justice is fallible, that innocent men can be put to death, but he is also, he admits, "a voice in the wilderness".

The service over, Mr Brandley drove 50 miles north to show me his native Conroe, a small town where even today whites still live in comfort one side of the railway track and blacks in wretched shacks the other.

It was here Mr Brandley's troubles began in August 1980 when a 16-year-old girl was raped and strangled at the high school during a volleyball tournament. Term was beginning ten days later. The town's authorities were desperate to find the killer. They homed in on Mr Brandley as the only black among the school's five janitors, one policeman telling him "since you're the nigger, you're elected".

The town's judges, public prosecutors and law enforcement officers all conspired to secure Mr Brandley's conviction despite having not a scintilla of evidence. Vital facts were suppressed, such as the discovery on the victim's body of Caucasian pubic hairs and blood that did not match Mr Brandley's. The defence was prevented from obtaining blood and



Clarence Brandley twice came within days of execution. His denunciation of the death penalty is, he says, "a voice in the wilderness"

hair samples from the other janitors. Key exhibits were "lost". Leads were not pursued. Prosecution witnesses lied, and defence witnesses were terrorised. The prosecutors and four consecutive judges, all "good of boys", secretly colluded and rigged proceedings.

Mr Brandley's first all-white jury split 11-1, the lone hold-out branded a "nigger lover" by his fellow jurors. A second all-white jury convicted him, and the date for Mr Brandley's execution was set for the court clerk's birthday to give her something to celebrate. It took seven years and two fruitless appeals before one of the janitors cracked, other witnesses with bad consciences began recanting, and a proper hearing was held well away from Conroe before a judge with no links to the town.

This judge, Perry Picken, declared that in 30 years he had never encountered "a more shocking scenario of the effects of racial prejudice, perjured testimony, witness intimidation, an investigation the outcome of

which was predetermined, and public officials who, for whatever motives, lost sight of what is right and just". He named one of the janitors, Gary Acreman, and a former janitor, James Robinson, as the probable murderers. Even then, it was two more years before Mr Brandley was freed in January, 1990.

Mr Brandley found God in prison and began reading widely, but he had to watch his five children grow up without him, his mother age prematurely, and more than a score of his fellow inmates being led away to their deaths. He suffered one of the most egregious miscarriages of justice in recent American history, but it has done nothing to slow the country's rush to embrace capital punishment.

A record 80 per cent of Americans now support capital punishment, and the rate of executions is rapidly increasing. There were five in 1983, 11 in 1988, a record 38 in 1993 and nine in

the first two months of 1995 alone. Few now attract any media attention.

Practically all politicians have jumped on the bandwagon, with even Democrats seeing it as the perfect issue to prove their toughness. The last really prominent opponent was Mario Cuomo, New York's Governor, and his stand cost him re-election in November. On Tuesday New York became the 38th state to reinstate capital punishment. Even the Supreme Court has tilted in favour. The only remaining debate is over streamlining the appeals process, with proponents arguing that the death penalty fails to deter because it takes so many years to carry out.

Texas has, meanwhile, displayed no remorse over the Brandley case. It has not apologised, paid him a penny in compensation, or moved to prosecute the real murderers. It has demanded \$22,000 in child support payments that Mr Brandley was patently unable to make during his incarceration. None of Conroe's

judges, district attorneys or law enforcement officers has paid any penalty, and almost all have been re-elected. Mr Brandley filed a \$120 million lawsuit against them, only to be told they enjoyed immunity.

Texas has performed 92 of the 266 executions since the death penalty was restored in 1976 and continues to lead the nation with seven of this year's nine. George W. Bush, the state Governor and former President's son, now wants to halve the length of the appeals process, a move which would have ensured Mr Brandley's death had it happened ten years earlier. In January the state surpassed itself by executing a man whose own prosecutor had changed his mind about his guilt and secured someone else's conviction.

"I hope in my death that I'm that little bitty snowball in an avalanche that will stop all executions," Jesse Dewayne Jacobs said moments before his death by lethal injection. As Mr Brandley could have told him, there is little chance of that.

## For a bite of life, taste a little danger

We had gathered in the large, draughty kitchen of the family home to witness an experiment in gastronomy. My mother had decided that we should make more use of the natural foods growing wild in the countryside around us. Specifically, she thought it absurd that we were ignoring the delights of the many and varied fungi that grew along the mossy ditches and in the dripping woods around the house. She had collected about a dozen specimens, some a dangerous-looking vermilion, some bright orange, others a delicate yellow. Only one was clearly a safe and sensible mushroom. She fried them all in butter and sat down to eat them. We sat down, too, and watched with interest to see whether she would die. She did not. Instead, she pronounced the result delicious, and the family menu expanded from then on.

It did not occur to us, in those distant days, that this was the height of irresponsibility. The concept of safe eating, of E-marks and sell-by dates, of health officers and the perils of *Listeria monocytogenes* had not percolated through to our part of northern Scotland. They had hardly percolated into the national consciousness at all.

We bought cheeses from farmyard dairies that today would be closed down in the blink of an EU bureaucrat's eye. We collected mussels off the pier where boats moored and rusting pipes delivered who knows what into the otherwise pellucid waters. We ate randomly but well.

Reading of the decision this week from the Lanarkshire JP who has determined that Humphrey Errington, a Lanarkshire cheesemaker, must destroy his stocks of Lanark Blue, one of Britain's more delectable cheeses, on the ground that they contained higher than permissible levels of bacteria, brought home to me how far we have come since my childhood. Mr Errington who, I am delighted to see, is challenging the decision and seeking a judicial review, makes his cheeses under stringent conditions, and has them regularly tested. Nevertheless, the local environmental health officers, using standards that would have eliminated most of the cheeses we used to enjoy, say public health is at risk. That there have been no recorded fatalities in Britain from listeria in cheese, and only two or three identified cases since recording began in the 1960s, is neither here nor there. The guidelines, say the officers, have been breached, and that is that.

Arguing for lower safety standards, not just for food and drink, but for potentially hazardous activities such as climbing, sailing, skiing, whitewater rafting or anything else, is not, I recognise, going to win any Pulitzer prizes. The passions aroused by Edwina Currie's pronouncements on the safety of eating eggs, or the lax standards that led to the canoeing tragedy at Lyme Bay suggest that any attempt to put the clock back is doomed to failure. And in one sense that is right. If pregnant women are placed at risk by an over-ripe cheese, or children's lives endangered on a poorly supervised school trip, the rules must be tightened. But an obsession with safety at all costs heralds not so much the nanny state as the mollycoddled state; and that can mean the loss of something more than just a strong-tasting cheese.

Recalling my childhood days, I am sometimes appalled by the risks we ran. My brother and I, for instance, used regularly to paddle our canvas canoe across the tidal waters of the Cromarty Firth, with my dog perched at the stern. We wore no safety jackets, we were under no adult supervision. We chose calm days and avoided an ebbing tide, but otherwise took no precautions. The only danger I can recall occurring when a school of porpoises chose to adopt us and dived repeatedly beneath our craft, emerging playfully alongside, their huge tails crashing into the water inches from the paddles. Since each of them was about the size of the canoe, it was an alarming experience. But we carried on across the bay; it made an excellent story on our return. It was, of course, the height of irresponsibility — I can imagine the headlines if the worst had happened. Certainly, I would not dream of allowing my children to do anything so foolhardy.

But there is no doubt that by routinely confronting the dangers of life outdoors, we became more resourceful, more capable of dealing with the unexpected.

Equally, I dare say, the body which grows accustomed to bacteria in food develops immunity systems to cope with them. It is interesting to note that the major outbreaks of listeria poisoning have all occurred (in Switzerland and the United States) since the 1980s. Whether that is because cases were not officially recorded until the late 1960s, or because detection methods have become more sophisticated, is hard to say. But it may be that in an all-sanitised, all-protected, safety-guaranteed world, we are losing our ability to cope with the natural world. For however many safety acts are passed or EU directives introduced, nature itself remains obstinately red in tooth and claw.



MAGNUS LINKLATER

'I wouldn't let my children do anything so foolish'

A million-dollar film deal is not enough for Philip Kerr to spend, spend, spend, he tells Giles Coren

## Writing his way into the movies

PHILIP KERR, the British novelist who has just sold his latest novel for \$1 million to the British production company that made *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, is skiing in the Swiss Alps this week, oblivious to the excitement his success has caused back home.

"It probably looks as if I have run away," he admits, "but I planned this a long time ago as a reward for finishing the novel." If this is no disappearing act on the Stephen Fry scale, then as rewards go it pales by comparison with the cheque, for about £640,000, that he will find on the doormat when he returns.

Last year, Philip Kerr, 38, was named as one of Granta's 20 best young novelists. So were Will Self, Iain Banks, Kazuo Ishiguro, Jeanette

Winterson, and Ben Okri — but although they win prizes aplenty, how often does one hear of a million-dollar deal? Salman Rushdie has declared himself a fan of Kerr's upmarket crime writing, but that is no guarantee of wealth. Something is afoot, not only in British fiction but also in the film industry.

"Working Title [the company which made the bid] is in fairly bullish mood after the success of *Four Weddings*," says Kerr. "When my publishers sent out a résumé, before the book was even finished, I started to get phone calls, and

it seemed reasonable to hope for some big offers. But it came as a surprise that a British company was interested. Working Title is in the business of making films, not just acquiring scripts, and from my point of view, as someone who also writes scripts, I am establishing a relationship with a British company that might one day be interested in one of mine."

He is writing a script for another British company, Renaissance (producers of *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing*), about the Lloyd's insurance disaster, and says

"it's good to be in bed with two British companies". He is also under the covers with a Hollywood studio that bought an earlier novel, *A Philosophical Investigation*. How does the money compare?

"That deal was different. It was an option, which means I get an annual retainer until they make the film. If they make it, I don't get my lump sum until filming starts — I suppose the amount will be comparable to this one."

Kerr attributes the movie interest in his books to the fact that he "thinks pictorially". Perhaps those other youngish novelists, who do not, might resent the financial success of one whose literary efforts have not been as lavishly garlanded as their own, particularly after the caniness that followed Martin Amis's demand for £500,000 for his latest novel.



Novelist Philip Kerr

"It is wise to assume one's fellow writers may not view one's own windfall with unqualified joy," he says, tactfully. "But I think most writers view films as a lottery, and if someone comes up trumps they can say 'well done'. The Amis thing differed in that the publishers were asked to sus-

tain a novel some thought would not recoup its advance."

Kerr need not worry about advances any more, and relishes the freedom the money gives him to continue his work. "But it will change nothing. I will still work surgery hours. The \$1 million looks an amazing figure on paper but it is not enough to go out and spend, spend, spend. It makes me feel secure, and to have job security in the Nineties has got to be good."

"Patriotism has played its part in my choosing Working Title. I remember when Colin Welland stood up at the Oscar ceremony after *Chariots of Fire* and said 'the British are coming'. Now that novelists like Tim Willocks and Nick Evans are selling books to Hollywood, and *Four Weddings* has done so well, perhaps it is coming true at last."

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## Janet Daley



### Preachers on homosexuality should ask: which is worse? Sexual hypocrisy or blackmail?

THE SPATE of church pronouncements on homosexuality this week has been earnestly graded by gay lobby groups. Cardinal Hume got about seven marks out of ten: high on compassion, low on practicality. The Church of England seemed to be trying — excuse the pun — to have it both ways, thus gaining nil points from all sides. And the Church of Scotland said, rather confusingly, that there should be more tolerance of acts which "it cannot be denied" are presented as unnatural in the Bible. So far as I can see, all of this sound and fury leaves actively gay people exactly where they were.

None of the statements — so widely touted as significant by homosexuals and homophobes alike — constitutes any change in what I have always understood Christian doctrine to be. The Roman Catholic Church is now saying that feelings are not wrong in themselves but the acts that follow from them can be. How is this different from traditional teaching? Isn't the whole point of the Christian ethic to resist whatever "impure" desires one has? Surely denying one's own gratifications, when indulging them would go against religious law, is what a Christian life is supposed to be about.

Since Christianity holds that none of us is free from illicit desires and impulses, we cannot be blamed for having forbidden feelings but only for acting on them. This applies as much to heterosexual adulterers as to homosexuals. The comment by one gay group that it was "cruel" to expect those who are homosexual to remain celibate misses the point: self-denial is an essential part of Christian morality. Sacrificing sexual satisfaction — whether through chastity, monogamy or celibacy — may seem peculiarly cruel now that secular society has embraced the idea that it is the be-all and end-all of the human condition. But for Christianity, abstinence of one kind or another has always been part of virtue. So what's new?

Well, there is a change of tone and emphasis. The churches are now couching their views on homosexuality in terms which, although they make little change in policy, are significant. Insofar as I, a non-Catholic, am fit to judge, Cardinal Hume's formulation seemed a noble blend of compassion and accepted doctrine. But by putting such stress on the principle that any love between two persons must be "treasured and respected", he seems to be accepting the most important tenet of the 1960s social revolution. It is now apparently unthinkable to question the notion that

personal love — as enacted in one-to-one relationships — is an ultimate good, and to suppress it is wicked.

Hence the modern Bible's translation of "charity" as "love" in the quote, "And now abideth faith hope and charity (love)..." but the greatest of these is charity (love). This elevation of feeling and emotion as a moral measure is a dangerous departure both for the Church and, ironically, for the homosexuals whom it wishes to protect from abuse. What follows from the belief that sincerity of feeling is a good in itself, is that hypocrisy — the denial of any true feeling — is deeply wrong. This is, indeed, the crime of which the Church (or some of its clergy) are accused by the most militant gay activists. "Emotion good, denial bad" was the core doctrine of the 1960s. Gay activists "out" clergy who they say are concealing their past or present homosexual inclinations, on the ground that hypocrisy is absolutely evil. But is it more wicked than cruelty — the exposing of the most private aspect of a man's life? (Or blackmail, from which outing is derived?)

Self-denial is an essential part of Christian morality

And feeling, of course, is what homophobia is about. I personally do not find homosexuals repugnant and so I have never been inclined to discriminate against them. But some people genuinely do. If sincerity of feeling is the moral test, what do we say to them? And it will not do to argue that only love is sacred, not hatred. Once you accept emotional truth as an absolute good, you must take all the consequences. It would be as hypocritical to deny your loathing as your loving.

GIVEN that no one is forced to be a Christian these days I am not quite sure why the gay lobby, most of whose members are non-believers, are locked into this messy dispute with the Church at all. But the clergy show every sign of feeling compromised by the challenge. They seem to be succumbing to the social fashion which insists that hypocrisy — the concealment of tendencies which are thought wrong — is unquestionably immoral.

But forget the loaded "h" word for a moment. If you are a Christian clergyman, you are obliged to believe that homosexual acts are sinful. If you have committed them, you must therefore feel guilt — and the appropriate response to guilt is private repentance. To be guilty because you have committed acts that your Church regards as illicit is an uncomfortable condition. But it is more defensible than declaring that, since you were acting on your genuine emotions, what you did must be right.



## Pretty good Europeans

Who are the "good Europeans"? Plainly Eurosceptics who want Britain to withdraw from Europe altogether would not claim to be. The phrase is usually commandeered by supporters of the Brussels bureaucracy who want to move to a single currency and a single European state. A stronger claim can be made by those who believe in *L'Europe des patries*: they want to combine the vigorous independence of the European nations with free trade and genuine co-operation. One advantage of the federalists is that they have the simple task of following the central institutions of the European Union; if they are journalists they often see themselves as the Washington correspondents of a future United States of Europe. They peer through the Brussels monocle.

The independent Europeans, on the other hand, have to try to understand what is happening in all the nations. For them, Europe is not merely Brussels or the unheroic persona of Jacques Santer. Europe consists of all its nations — it is more important to understand the problems of the peoples than the problems of the bureaucrats.

This week it is the Estonian people who have spoken decisively in their general election, and they too have a message for all of Europe. The outgoing government party has only just won the qualifying 5 per cent of the national vote. Otherwise it would have held no seats at all in the new parliament; that would have been an even worse result than the Canadian Progressive Conservatives, who held only two seats after losing their last election. Estonia is one of the most successful examples of post-communist development — along with the Czechs and Slovenians, the Estonians are widely regarded as examples to the rest of Eastern Europe. Why did they repudiate a young and energetic Government of radical reformers? Having led the way forward, are they now about to join a retreat?

Outsiders find it hard to understand the electoral system of Estonia: anyone who can master it could be sure of an annual bonus in six figures as a dealer in the derivatives market. Like the Irish, the Estonians have multi-member constituencies; like the Germans, they have a 5 per cent qualifying hurdle for parties to enter parliament; like the British, their

electoral system has a built-in bias towards larger parties. At all events, the latest Estonian elections have thrown out the Young Turks and put in a coalition of more moderate, more cautious and more middle-aged reformers. As the new coalition will be led by Tii Vahi, who was the Prime Minister during the reform period after 1991, and includes Siim Kallas, the governor of the bank who set up the currency board which linked the Estonian kroon to the mark, the new Government has its own reformist record. All of the Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, want to join the European Union, and are almost certain to be the first ex-Soviet states to do so. If one judges by purchasing power per head, they are even now not far behind the poorer EU countries. Portugal has a GDP per head which is 41 per cent of the American, Greece has only 34 per cent, Estonia 30 per cent, Latvia 30 per cent, and Lithuania 23. By the end of the century Estonia will probably have caught up with Portugal. The Estonians have already moved from a free-trade agreement with the European Union to current negotiations for association status. The association agreement is not yet signed, but Estonia, significantly, has not had to ask for any adjustment period.

Estonia is a remarkable example of the survival of an historic culture in the face of oppression. Grass grows through concrete. Until 1917, Estonia was part of the Russian Empire under the tsars; from 1940 to 1991, with the exception of the period of Nazi occupation, it was incorporated in the Soviet Empire under Stalin and his successors. Between the wars Estonia was an independent Baltic state, like its Finnish neighbour. It is amazing how quickly the old trading patterns have reappeared, as well as the old culture. During the Soviet period, Estonia was fully

integrated into the Soviet economy. Now the ranking of trading partners is Finland first, Russia second, Sweden third, Latvia fourth, Germany fifth and Britain seventh. There are still great opportunities for British trade. Two-thirds of Estonia's trade is with the European Union.

Thanks to its bold currency reform, which created a Hong Kong-style currency board, Estonia has one of the strongest currencies in Europe; perhaps the rise in the mark will make the kroon too strong a currency. When the kroon became independent it was valued at one kroon to ten rubles, the single currency of the Soviet Union. It is now worth 400 rubles. (Those in Britain who want to know how the pound could regain its independence if we first joined and then wanted to leave a single European currency can examine the happy post-Soviet experience of the kroon.)

Indeed since 1992, the kroon has moved up against the pound and the dollar as well as against the rouble. Why then did the voters turn on the old party leader, Mart Laar, the Younger Pitt of Estonia, and the Government of beardless technocrats? Their policies of radical open-market reform had considerable support in Estonian society; indeed they followed the policies of reform introduced in the period immediately after independence. Mr Laar's administration had suffered from scandals which had led to his earlier resignation as Prime Minister. The ferry Estonia had sunk — a national shock on the Titanic scale. But the main reason seems to have been that the Government was too inexperienced, too much of a hurry to arrogate and too young. Mr Laar himself is only 34; leading members of the Government were in their twenties or thirties, though there were some older ministers.

The defeated administration had alienated two important constituencies, the rural population and the old. Agriculture still accounts for about a sixth of the Estonian economy. The Country People's Party was able to win seats for the coalition by its attack on the Government's seemingly heartless approach to Estonian farming. The old have been bewildered by the speed of change in the 1990s: they had survived the bad times; they now seemed to be mere spectators of the better times to come. A leader of only 34 could not identify himself with these feelings.

The new coalition Government describes its policy as that of "the social market economy". Its election statement defined this as "an open market economy" based on a stable and dependable currency, with low taxes on business and a shift of individual taxes from income to consumption. This is a reasonable formulation. In the early period after independence, the new Prime Minister, Mr Vahi, was himself responsible for carrying through the five essential reforms on which the post-communist recovery has been based. He liberalised prices, allowing them to rise to the world level. He carried the monetary reform which linked the kroon to the mark. He introduced the new constitution. He began extensive privatisation, using the German Treuhand as a consultant. He called the first free national elections since 1940. The new Government may benefit from the reforms of the outgoing administration, but will soften the impact of some of them in line with its social commitments.

The Estonians are probably now about halfway to full recovery. They started early, seizing the first opportunities of perestroika in 1986; the process will be more or less complete in economic terms by about 2005. By that time they should be a normal Baltic member of the EU, a second Denmark, though not as rich: they will be accompanied by Latvia and Lithuania. They have chosen this time to elect a middle-aged moderate government of the centre right in place of the young radical right. In terms of Estonian elections John Major would have defeated Michael Portillo. They too want to be "good Europeans", yet after 50 years of Hitler, Stalin and Soviet Communism, it was the lamp of national identity that kept their European culture alight.

William Rees-Mogg

## Putting France first

Charles Bremner  
on a race with no prizes for Britain

Rarely has a consensus reversed as quickly as it has in the race for the succession to President Mitterrand. A dismal month as a candidate, the Gaullist Prime Minister of his invincible aura and cast him in the role of underdog to Jacques Chirac, his party chief and two-decade campaigner for the presidency. As he has surged ahead, old Chirac the dogged loser has been reborn as Jacques the Conqueror, the bold leader with a mission to revive Gallic grandeur.

Barring accidents, electoral mathematics means one of the duelling Gaullists is virtually certain to take the presidency. Lionel Jospin, the late-comer candidate of the Socialist Party, has little hope. On the face of it, this should only be good news for the British Government, given its desire to stem the drift to deeper European union. Both Messrs Balladur and Chirac profess antipathy for the old federal ideal.

In reality, however, M. Balladur believes France must stay in the European "hard core", whatever it is called. And for all his radical talk about French independence, M. Chirac also accepts, like most of his countrymen, that there is no substitute for the special German tie, even if France feels that it is becoming the junior partner. Britain, the unreliable island with qualms about Europe, is no alternative.

M. Jospin, a professional type with an image of rectitude, has ignored misgivings over Maastricht and is courting the still substantial sentiment in favour of integration. He is promising swift monetary union and a commitment to majority voting to ensure that recalcitrant members — read Britain — cannot sabotage progress towards a millennium of pooled sovereignty.

His devotion to the old Euro-gospel is widely shared among the centre-right parties who are growing nervous about their decision to throw in their lot with the Gaullist Premier. This explains why much of the campaign rhetoric over Europe should be taken with a pinch of salt and why, for all their apparent differences, both Gaullists are doing their best to avoid discussion of where they plan to lead France when the Union reviews its future next year. Each, in varying degree, wants a strong Europe with weak institutions.

M. Balladur continues to proclaim his commitment to a single currency in 1997 and a French place alongside Germany in the vanguard of union. At the same time he is asserting his commitment to national sovereignty and a voice in the future Europe that corresponds to France's calling as a world power.

M. Chirac's stance is more confusing. In his new mantle as a social Gaullist, he is playing for the popular vote by denouncing Brussels and railing against the fiscal discipline that has helped to keep French unemployment at its painful level. At the same time, he says he is committed to monetary union, *le franc fort* and the reduction of deficits required for the EMU discipline.

The pro-European statesmen Raymond Barre and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing both decided this week not to enter the campaign, partly because no one was interested in an honest debate. On the other extreme, Philippe de Villiers, the nationalist candidate who has about 8 per cent of the polls, is raising against a conspiracy to hide the fact that EMU means a transfer of sovereignty.

There is no question that a President Chirac, or Balladur to a lesser extent, expects to oversee a change in France's longstanding partnership with Germany. To the dismay of the elite, the shift is already well under way with the emergence of Germany as the pre-eminent power. The crunch will come when Bonn insists on the political price it requires for the "sacrifice" of the mark to a single currency.

The Gaullists see Britain as a useful balance to Germany and like to point out the common interests of the two old rivals as medium powers with military and diplomatic clout. M. Chirac says the President must make sure that France and Germany do not gang up against Britain at the 1996 conference.

However, no one should imagine a rosy new entente in which a Gaullist President helps London tame down Maastricht in the name of "*L'Europe des patries*". If elected, M. Chirac and Alain Juppé, his likely prime minister, will, like M. Balladur, try to make Europe work for France. This means, among other things ensuring there is no dilution of the common agricultural policy which so benefits the farmers whom the candidate has been assiduously courting.

In the latest of the many guises of a long career, the unpredictable M. Chirac is now an interventionist and a protectionist who opposes free trade. He also means in true Gaullist form to fight for barriers to the American "cultural invasion". Combining with a prickly sense of national pride, these are hardly attitudes likely to make a Chirac presidency much more Brito-friendly than that of the pragmatic and predictable M. Balladur.

## Top spin-doctor

CONSERVATIVE Central Office is flitting with crisis management. The front-runner to take over as the party's director of communications is John Stenborough, an expert in sticky situations. His hands are full at the moment dealing with the collapse of Baring's.

Stenborough's name is being bandied about in Central Office, where sources say he has had a session with John Major, one of the party's deputy chairmen. I caught up with him yesterday as he was trying to engineer a positive image for the asset management arm of the Baring's empire.

The 46-year-old former journalist, who used to work with the BBC's Roger Cook, currently runs a media relations company. Yesterday he admitted being interested in the post, which carries a salary of more than £65,000. "I know John Major, and we have talked briefly — some time ago," he ventured cautiously.

However, a Tory source insists Stenborough is top of a shortlist "of no more than three" drawn up by Major. The party has reportedly struggled to fill the post — Conservative Central Office is a far from happy ship and it is strapped for

cash, to boot. But Stenborough is engagingly modest about his chances of succeeding Tim Collins, the present long-serving incumbent. "Tell me if you hear I've been appointed."

### Puffing on

THE LORDS and Commons Pipsmokers Club settled down for a good smoke-in to mark National No Smoking Day yesterday at the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street, London. The Lords Harris, Mason, and Belhaven and Stenton were wreathed in an impenetrable fog as they puffed away defiantly.

"We are cooking a snook at the anti-smoking lobby," explained Lord Mason, the former Labour minister and convener of the club, in his deerstalker. "I think Holmes would have grunted in disgust at the thought of a No Smoking Day."

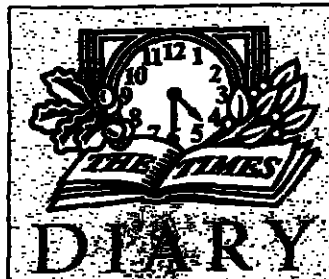
"I always say: if you want to be happy for a day, go fishing. If you want to be happy for a week get married. If you want to be happy for a month, kill a pig. If you want to be happy and contented for all time, smoke a pipe."

Old hands may be offended if she doesn't sport the rocks (21 diamonds) presented to her by General Smuts, then the President. Others will be appalled if she appears to flirt with the old regime by wearing them. Buckingham Palace is playing safe. "We do not know yet what jewellery she will be taking with her."

### Gem dilemma

THE Queen faces a dilemma on the jewellery front when she visits South Africa later this month. Should she, or shouldn't she, wear the necklace and bracelet she was given as a 21st birthday present when last in the country?

Old hands may be offended if she doesn't sport the rocks (21 diamonds) presented to her by General Smuts, then the President. Others will be appalled if she appears to flirt with the old regime by wearing them. Buckingham Palace is playing safe. "We do not know yet what jewellery she will be taking with her."



Gardeners digging in over the Royal Horticultural Society's plans to move its famous Lindley library out of London have been classified a new species by the society's apparitionists. The Marchioness of Salisbury and other green-fingered protesters are known as "Brent's mob" — after the Lindley's librarian, Dr Brent Elliott.

### Whip lash

THE LATEST member of John Major's Government in hot water is Greg Knight, the Deputy Chief Whip, who is charged with imposing order among the Tory benches. He has been summoned to appear today before the Speaker Betty Boothroyd for a dressing-down. "He's got four cars parked in our underground car park — and one is not even taxed," protests one MP limited, like other MPs, to one

space. But Knight's line-up is impressive: a Rover, a Chevrolet, a Studebaker and a Jensen.

### Pastures old

THE DUKE of Marlborough is experiencing a little local difficulty. His plan to plant Christmas trees on fields in the Glyme Valley on his estate at Blenheim in Oxfordshire has enraged conservationists.

His Grace does not need planning permission but locals are livid over his refusal to back a government scheme for keeping the traditional meadows of the Upper Thames tributaries. A petition is on its way.

"It's outrageous that one of the country's leading families is not applying for entry to the scheme," splutters Dr George Gandy of the Glyme Valley Action Group. "It is a really beautiful spot, covered in cowslips in spring with orchids in the summer." An agent for the estate declined to comment.

### Undeterred

TO HIS considerable surprise, the poet and author Laurie Lee was killed off the other day by a couple of local schoolgirls working on a literature project in his home village of Slad in Gloucestershire. The 80-year-old was sitting out-



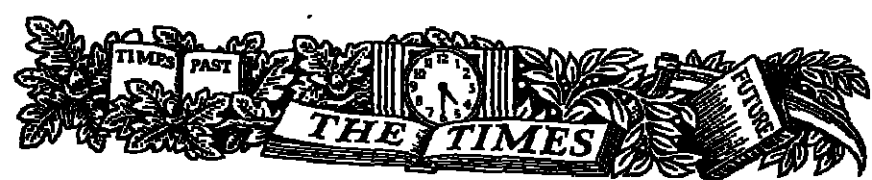
Laurie Lee: still in good form

side his local pub when the girls appeared. "Excuse me, sir," said one. "Can you tell me where Laurie Lee is buried?" Lee put them right but felt strange about it.

Reflecting on the incident yesterday, he said: "Try to imagine it. They looked at me as if I was a bit of Cotswold stone and asked me where I was buried. It ruled me out as a biological possibility but at the same time gave me a sense of extraordinary immortality."

P.H.S





## ROAD TO DISARMAMENT

Mayhew's pragmatic approach to IRA arms is correct

The disarmament of the IRA is the most important precondition of a lasting peace in Ulster. As long as the republican movement remains capable of bombing the City of London or of bringing down a military helicopter by mortar attack, any constitutional settlement will rest on precarious foundations. For this reason, the complexities of "decommissioning" must be acknowledged with honesty and forethought. The desirability of the end is not in question; it is the means which must be discussed.

Sir Patrick Mayhew's statement on IRA disarmament this week made Unionists understandably nervous. On Tuesday, the Northern Ireland Secretary explained to a Washington audience including the American Secretary of State that an agreement in principle to "disarm progressively" is the most important requirement that will be made of republican terrorists before Sinn Féin can meet ministers. Agreement will also have to be reached on the means by which the surrender of weaponry might be achieved. Finally, the British Government will demand "the actual decommissioning of some arms as a tangible confidence-building measure to signal the start of a process".

This is a risky strategy. As the Ulster Unionist Ken Maginnis observed, it expects only a "token gesture" of the terrorists before talks begin with ministers. There is a reasonable anxiety among the majority in the North that the future of the Province will, after all, be debated with the threat of renewed violence hanging over the negotiating table. Yet it is precisely to avoid this that a subtle approach is needed. Persuading a criminal organisation, that has for long relied on the persuasive power of violence, to hand over its weapons, requires

a complete change of assumptions within the republican movement. The Government could easily issue an ultimatum demanding the surrender of all the IRA's Semtex explosive and rifles within the next two months. Yet to do so would be an act of great naivety. What matters is that the process of disarmament should begin as soon as possible.

Sir Patrick's remarks suggest that there is a reasonably strong predisposition in Sinn Féin's ranks to begin this process. After lengthy exploratory talks, there seems to be a willingness on the republican side to address this fundamental problem. Ministers are right to emphasise the importance of attitudes as well as action in finding a solution to this dilemma. Without a commitment in the republican leadership to gradual disarmament, robust demands for immediate results would amount to no more than rhetoric. All else depends on a fundamental decision within the IRA to elect the road to comprehensive disarmament.

This road may have many twists and turns. There is some evidence that the IRA would prefer the security forces to be informed discreetly of where arms may be found, than for paramilitary groups to hand them over in any formal way. It may prove helpful to involve foreign observers in the collection and verification process. To date, the best proposal has been for a series of "forensic" arms dumps — locations where weapons could be deposited and destroyed on the understanding that they would not be used as evidence in court. The Government and Sinn Féin must soon make clear how they propose to proceed. The people of Ulster, meanwhile, will need to be patient. No process in the peace negotiations will require greater dexterity than this.

## R FOR RECOVERY

Money spent on cutting illiteracy is money saved

Children who leave primary school unable to read or write properly are effectively excluded from the world of education. Secondary school lessons pass in a blur, and the temptations to truancy and then crime often prove irresistible. By the time they reach school leaving age, they may well be unemployed. Money spent on ensuring that all young children reach basic standards in literacy, then, ought to be money well spent.

How extraordinary, in that case, to find that the Government has decided not to renew funding for the highly successful Reading Recovery programme, introduced three years ago from New Zealand. A research report published yesterday by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority found that six-year-olds taught by this method made twice as much progress as children without it, and 70 per cent more progress than children being taught a narrower phonetic-based course.

Normal support for bad readers in primary schools rarely enables children to catch up with their peers; it usually just helps them to avoid falling further behind. By contrast Reading Recovery, which requires half-an-hour's one-to-one tuition for about 16 weeks, brings 70 to 80 per cent of children up to or beyond the average standard of their peers. After that, they no longer need help because they are independent, confident readers. And reading, once learnt, is a skill that need never be lost.

Reading Recovery is initially more expensive than other programmes: between £780 and £1,000 per child, compared with just under £600 for both the phonetic programme and normal specialist support.

However, the cost of Reading Recovery is concentrated in the first year, and for most children will be negligible thereafter. Other remedial education is usually needed year after year: and the older a child becomes, the less effect it tends to have.

So investment in Reading Recovery ought to be seen as seedcorn money. It saves money later on in the child's school career, and it saves society even more. The Home Office estimates that half of all prisoners are functionally illiterate. And a report by the management consultants Ernst & Young recently estimated that poor basic skills, particularly illiteracy, cost the country £10.2 billion a year. The bill for social benefits and lost tax revenue is incalculable.

The best route out of poverty is education. Yesterday's study found that Reading Recovery worked best on children taking free school meals; that is, the most socially deprived. It was also particularly effective for the least able readers in the study. Children who come from a home with few books, where reading is not highly valued, are both the most at need and those most likely to benefit from the scheme. Without help, they are likely to leave school with no qualifications and to lead the same dependent life as their parents. Yet escape from that cycle of dependency is possible through success at school.

The money needed to keep the scheme at its present level is not huge: perhaps £8 million a year. If it were to be extended nationwide, the cost would be around £30 million a year, a minuscule percentage of the education budget. For a Government committed to raising standards in schools, this is a tiny but essential price to pay.

## KILLINGS IN KARACHI

Pakistan's metropolis now looks more like Beirut

The murder of two American diplomats in Karachi yesterday has sown alarm in the Government of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's increasingly unconvincing Prime Minister. Ms Bhutto is due to visit America next month and the killings, coming in the wake of the widely-publicised trial for blasphemy of a teenage Christian boy, are bound to ensure that her welcome in Washington will be much less effusive than she would like.

The murders are accounted to be in reprisal for the extradition from Pakistan to America of Ramzi Ahmed Yusuf, the Iraqi national alleged to have masterminded the bombing in 1993 of the World Trade Centre in New York. Ms Bhutto has condemned the killings as part of a "well-planned campaign of terrorism", designed "to create fear and harassment" in Karachi. What she has not done, however, is to explain how she proposes to check the descent into anarchy of her country's commercial capital. Karachi is now an urban battleground whose resemblance to Beirut increases with each passing month: more than 1,200 people have died there since the beginning of last year. Cynics have suggested that the Government in Islamabad would do well to redeploy in Karachi those Pakistani UN peacekeepers who were withdrawn recently from Somalia.

The city's body-politic now lies poisoned and prostrate. Feuds are conducted across complex battle-lines. Ranged against each other are political parties and private armies, defined by reference to ethnicity, criminality or religion — and often by a combination of all three. "Mohajirs" (descended from the Urdu-speaking refugees from northern India) are at war with Sindhis, while the Pashtuns are at war with both: the

Sunnis are locked in bloody combat with the Shias, and often rake each others' mosques with gunfire; and drug-barons control large swathes of the city. The police are often unwilling to act, or unable to do so — the force is corrupt, and the warlords are never short of political backing.

Karachi's Inferno is the product of Pakistan's own contradictions. The country has failed abjectly to marry the unitary Islamic aspirations of its founding fathers with the multi-ethnic nature of its society. The majority of Pakistanis do not want an Islamic state, and have expressed their disdain for religious parties on those rare occasions when the country has held free elections. Yet the inability of the country to create a stable democracy can be attributed directly to the habit of successive governments in Islamabad, and their satraps in the provinces, to kow-tow to the mullahs. In this, Ms Bhutto has shown that she is just as guilty as any of her predecessors.

As for Karachi, there can be no panacea. In the short term at least, Ms Bhutto must entrust the security of its citizens to the country's army. The military high command now answers to a civilian Government. It must be presented with a tightly-tailored mandate, designed to bring to the city a semblance of order. The collapse of Karachi would be an economic catastrophe for Pakistan: it is estimated that the country lost \$1 billion in potential foreign investment last year because of the city's lawlessness. In the longer term, Ms Bhutto would do well to consider returning the city to an accountable municipal administration. For Karachi — like the rest of Pakistan — needs more democracy, not less.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Cost to nation of 'snouts in trough'

From Mr Gordon Pepper

Sir, A little-noticed aspect of executives' snout-in-the-trough is the effect of an abnormal increase in salary on the size of a pension (letters, March 6). If the increase happens just before retirement the cost to the company is very little but that to the pension fund can be great.

Regulation is needed. The consulting actuary of the pension fund should certify the discounted value of any increase in pension; this should be approved by the company's remuneration committee; and reported to shareholders. The consulting actuary should have been appointed by the trustees of the pension fund and not by the executives of the company. But who appoints the trustees of the pension fund?

I would not be writing this letter if I were still joint senior partner of a firm of stockbrokers. Senior executives appoint a company's professional advisers. A letter such as this would have lost us some corporate clients, perhaps blue-chip companies.

One may be willing to accept risks personally for a point of principle, but it may be better to argue in private than in public if the result can be damage to a firm. Being whiter than white is not a recommended strategy for survival in a competitive jungle.

Yours faithfully,  
GORDON PEPPER,  
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,  
March 7.

From Mr Colin Darracott

Sir, The chief executives of the UK's largest companies and the bosses of the 24 privatised electricity and water companies have between them received £15 million in profits in the last three years, according to the *Investors Chronicle*. They have another £22 million on the way, and get annual salaries of around £500,000.

It is therefore unsurprising to read in Philip Bassett's report of March 6 that the Government wants to switch attention to benefits we have all gained from privatisation, rather than the huge amounts of money which chief executives of privatised industries have gained. But when the *Investors Chronicle* and even the *Financial Times* of Directors think that top people's pay has gone beyond the limits of decency, something has to be done.

Charter 88 believes that it should be possible to bring the disciplines of the market increasingly into our public life without giving this sort of offence. So at our conference on March 14, entitled "Public standards, business values: Making them work together", a panel of leading City figures will be making a serious effort to find a better way of regulating our financial institutions and controlling the cupidity of our captains of industry.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN DARRACOTT  
(Coordinator), Charter 88,  
Exmouth House,  
3-11 Pine Street, ECI,  
March 6.

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, The large increases in top people's pay have become more excessive since the reduction in the top rate of income tax. One might naively have expected that change to lessen the need for such increases, but of course, human nature being what it is, allowing top earners to keep 60p in each extra £1 instead of only 20p actually stimulated the desire for huge bonuses.

Some of these City megastars may wish they had moderated their raises when they hear a future Labour Chancellor justifying doubling the top rate of tax "to help reduce the scale of increase in top salaries".

Yours faithfully,  
IAN BRYANT,  
Hipping Hall, Cowan Bridge,  
Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.

Business letters, page 29

### Lamont's loyalty

From Mr F. R. Salinger

Sir, I believe that Sir Robert Rhodes James has got it wrong ("What did Lamont expect?", March 7). It should be the boss who resigns when the policy fails, not his lieutenant. I am old enough to have seen this principle honoured in the services throughout the Second World War and I believe that it was a help in getting us through.

Norman Lamont was a loyal lieutenant to John Major in carrying out the latter's policy on the exchange-rate mechanism and was sacrificed to the new current principle of passing the buck down. This seems to me one of the modern principles that has contributed greatly to our national decline and it is this example by our Prime Minister that may be one of the reasons for his unpopularity.

Yours faithfully,  
FREDDY SALINGER,  
Greenacres,  
Southlands Lane, West Chilmington,  
Pulborough, West Sussex.

Sports letters, page 42

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

### Missing elements from an epistle to a godson

From the Right Reverend  
Dr Richard Harries, Bishop of  
Oxford

Sir, Matthew Parris, in his column today, is right to be troubled by the teaching of Jesus about divine judgment. So am I. It is best, as he says, to do good for its own sake, rather than through fear of the consequences. But it is not quite as simple as that.

First, in a world of manifest injustice, so much innocent suffering, and where the motives of others are hidden from us, religious faith looks forward to a time of true justice, of divine rather than human judgment. But we cannot have the good being revealed in all its goodness without the bad being revealed in all its wickedness (and the line runs through us all).

This revealing, in the presence of God, is what makes heaven or hell the opposite. So divine judgment, however unpleasant to a modern sensibility, is an essential element of any faith that right will ultimately be vindicated — Judaism, Christianity and Islam to name but three.

Secondly, belief in a day of judgment and salvation was part of the culture in which Jesus taught and he expressed himself in the vivid imagery with which people were familiar.

Thirdly, the whole thrust of the message and mission of Jesus is that in him we can even now meet the everlasting mercy and compassion of God. I always find Luke xii, 47, instructive:

To you who are my friends I say: do not fear those who kill the body and after that have nothing more they can do. I will warn you whom to fear: fear him, who after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Believe me, he is the one to fear.

Are not sparrows five for two pence? And yet not one of them is overlooked by God.

More than that, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Have no fear; you are worth more than any number of sparrows.

This recognises the fact that fear is part of us; says that, given this, it is better to fear God than man — but directs us to a God who values each one of us with an infinite love, as though we were the only one.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD OXON,  
Diocesan Church House,  
North Hinksey, Oxfordshire,  
March 6.

From Mr Geoffrey Hine

Sir, If Matthew Parris is now expressing views that have "troubled" him since his youth, why did he stand as a godparent?

Having abrogated his responsibilities he has now returned publicly to denigrate his godson's personal decision to be confirmed into the Church. He is certainly right in saying that his essay is an unsuitable confirmation present to the unfortunate Gordon, but how he arrives at "well intended" defeats me.

Yours in faith,  
GEOFFREY HINE,  
245 Windsor Road,  
Carlton-in-Lindrick,  
Worksop, Nottinghamshire,  
March 6.

From Mrs Mysie Sutherland

Sir, I think the Bishop of Oxford must have made the position of sinners quite clear to all his hearers. Matthew Parris must have heard the awesome fact of life that the wages of sin is death.

That we are all guilty of sin is inescapable. But God sent His Son not

to condemn the world but that the world through Him should be saved. Most of us know we are wrong but are too proud to accept that while we were yet sinners, Jesus died for us.

I remember hearing someone on the radio some years ago ask Archbishop Desmond Tutu what he was going to preach about that day. He replied, "Oh, my usual: God is love." What else is there?

Yours trustingly,  
MYSIE SUTHERLAND,  
The Rectory, Church Lane,  
Barton in Fabis, Nottinghamshire.

From Mr Ruiton Viccajee

Sir, The Bible trumpets, implies, suggests, commends and whispers throughout its length a number of absolute truths, many of which I suspect may be politically unacceptable to the non-Christian: that God is holy, that man is fundamentally sinful, that one cannot meet without the Cross, that without the Cross there is a judgment and that a man's self-reliance on his own choices and efforts leads to disaster.

Mr Parris ought to accept the Christian message not because he should help his fellow man out of higher motives than fear of punishment, but rather because he is doubtless a thoroughly fine chap who ought to accept the spiritual realities of the way things are and not only save himself, but find peace with a God who is indeed a loving guide as well as a Holy Judge.

I wish Mr Parris well in his journey.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. B. VICCAJEE,  
4 Abbots Close, Guildford, Surrey,  
March 7.

### Too many lawyers, too few jobs

From Mr Barry Shaw

Sir, I was dismayed to read (*Legal News Roundup*, February 28) that the College of Law is taking 200 extra students in London on its legal practice course (LPC) in September.

My firm recently advertised for just one more trainee solicitor, to commence this year. In just over a week we received over 400 applications, some of which arrived by courier, facsimile, recorded delivery and in person.

Sadly, it is unlikely that most of the applicants will receive an offer in time to commence in 1995 and many will probably be lucky to procure a training contract for 1996. In 1994, some 6,000 law students completed the LPC, competing for approximately 3,800 training contract vacancies. Over 7,000 will complete the course

this year. Many incur substantial debt to cover the fees and their living expenses.

The training committee of the Law Society recently announced its continuing policy to rely on "market forces" to control the number of LPC places, rather than take action to impose a limit. Meanwhile, the predicament of the thousands unable to procure training contracts must be demoralising.

A training contract should be a prerequisite to a place on the LPC, thereby restricting the numbers.

Yours sincerely,  
BARRY SHAW  
(Recruitment partner),  
Wallace & Partners  
(Solicitors),  
9 Great James Street, WCI,  
March 1.

### Tax and the family

From Mrs M. A. Edwards

Sir, The Secretary of State for Health (letter, February 27) misinterprets one vital factor. The increase in working women is not always because of their growing independence but often the result of economic necessity.

"This deep-seated change" results in two, three or four-year-olds being placed in nurseries and older children often coming home to empty homes, thus adding to family stress; it is certainly not the right way to promote "the saving of marriages".

Yours sincerely,  
M. A. EDWARDS,  
24 Palmers Way, High Salvington,  
Worthing, West Sussex.

From Mr Denis A. Palmer, JP

Sir, Virginia Bottomley's assertion that the conventional family is still by

far the norm indicates a rather muddled view of the results of the deep-seated changes which she admits have occurred as a result of the Government's agenda.

The euphemistically described "care in the community" is basically a failure because it does not take into account the resentment by children of the "burden" of caring for a parent alongside their many other responsibilities.

Society does not necessarily benefit from economic policies which create wealth and allow its members to keep as much money as possible. It would, however, hugely benefit from policies encouraging fondness and concern and rejection of greed, sleaze and self-aggrandisement.

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. PALMER,  
20 Clarence Drive,  
Englefield Green, Surrey.

### Landmine controls

From His Honour Judge Keith McHale

Sir, Landmines are for indiscriminate killing and maiming and incapable of the "responsible" use to which Mr Davis, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (letter, March 8), suggests they might be put.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH MCMALE,  
141 Albemarle Road,  
Beckenham, Kent.

From Dr Andrew Porter

Sir, I have just returned from Afghanistan, where I witnessed the horrific effects of landmines on the civilian population of Kandahar. The day before I left, two young boys were killed when their sheep strayed on to an uncleared patch of land.

Of course there should be a total ban on manufacture and export of mines. But it is even more urgent to research and develop more efficient methods of clearance. The pace of demining in developing countries is painfully slow, due to the very low level of technology available. It should be the responsibility of the firms which manufactured these weapons to provide funding for this initiative.

Even the Second World War methods, such as tanks fitted with flails, would be preferable to the hand-held detectors which were the only implements available in Afghanistan. Much more effort must be put into clearance technology to avoid continuing tragedy in the years ahead.

Yours etc,  
ANDREW PORTER  
(Consultant paediatrician),  
18 Chequers Park, Wye, Kent.

### Hunting the fox

From Mr John Howard-Jones

Sir, As a working sheep farmer I take strong exception to Mr John McFall, MP's suggestion (letter, March 3) that many of our losses at lambing time are caused by bad husbandry.

Maybe he should confine his energies to his constituency of Dumbarton and leave farming to the countryman.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HOWARD-JONES,  
Cholsey Farm, Ibsstone,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,  
March 5.

From Mr S. D. Turner

Sir, As a shepherd who takes a great pride in the standard of husbandry and welfare in his flock, I would like to invite Mr McFall to come and participate in the rigours of outdoor lambing, and witness the intense effort by all those involved to ensure that mortality is kept to an absolute minimum, despite 100-hour working weeks and the vagaries of the weather.

Fox control is essential to reduce losses of lambs and ground-nesting birds. On this estate alone the gamekeepers have accounted for nearly 30 foxes since summer. Mr McFall's gibes comments might be somewhat tempered if he endured the heartbreak of picking up lambs mutilated by a fox after all efforts to ensure they remained fit and healthy.

Yours faithfully,  
S. D. TURNER,  
Filt Farm Cottage,  
Goodworth Clatford,  
Nr Andover, Hampshire,  
March 4.

### A-level standards

From Dr P. J. Holt

Sir, You report (March 3) the concern of the Engineering Council about the decline in the standards of students' mathematics. The new London A-level pure maths syllabuses are scheduled to start in 1996. After a period of subtly and almost imperceptibly eroding the standard of this examination (partly by over-generous marking, partly by a gradual chipping away at the syllabus), the powers-that-be seem to have decided that, since they have elicited little criticism so far, they can get away with more radical measures.

Now quite substantial sections of really important, well-established A-level mathematics are to be eliminated, leaving a syllabus which as little as ten years ago would have seemed ludicrously edgious to both teachers and lecturers in the subject.

That this should happen at all is deplorable; the action is doubly unacceptable in that it occurs when we are being vehemently assured that A-level standards are being maintained.

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. HOLT,  
229 Malden Road, Cheam, Surrey,  
March 3.

### Walter Allen

From Mr Keith Waterhouse

Sir, Your excellent obituary of Walter Allen (March 2) makes no mention of his kindness and generosity towards younger writers. As you note, the publication of his much under-rated novel *All in a Lifetime* "clashed with that of a spate of depictions by younger writers... of working-class life". This did not prevent him from selfishly giving them a leg up.

Walter Allen not only read and recommended for publication my first novel *There is a Happy Land*; he then recruited me as a fiction reviewer for the *New Statesman*, introduced me to literary figures he thought might be useful — I then knew no one in London — and in short "took me up", with no object other than that of promoting my work because he liked what I wrote. I know that he gave the same helping hand to several other young writers of the day.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH WATERHOUSE,  
The Garrick Club,  
Garrick Street, WC2.

### And some there be...

From Mrs Malcolm Hord

Sir, I think my obituary (letters, March 2, 6) will follow the theme of my school reports — "could have done better".

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH HORD,  
24 Brunswick Gardens, W8,  
March 6.

### Hidden warning

From Mr Robert Warner

Sir, Mrs Robson (letter, February 24) is right to draw our attention to the threats concealed in vehicle inscriptions, such as "Community recycling". But all is not doom and gloom.

In Lancashire recently I saw a slow-moving van bearing the inscription "Service Detection Vehicle". It is good to know that efforts are being made to seek out this rare form of behaviour.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT WARNER,  
169 Poplar Grove,  
Kennington, Oxford.















In future, anyone can trawl for misleading brochures on a travel agent's shelf and get official help to take a tour company to court

## Sun, sand — and an empty promise

A group of some 20 MPs met in a wood-paneled room overlooking the Thames on Tuesday morning to chew over the implications of the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1994.

It was hardly the kind of subject to need the attention of the Serjeant at Arms to keep the throng from heading down the door of Committee Room 12 in excitement. Nor were all the high-minded declarations in which MPs indulge on such occasions going to have any bearing on the passage of the measure into law. But this little regulation — one of thousands emanating from Brussels that slip almost unnoticed into our lives — will have a significant bearing on the way in which consumer law, especially where it concerns travel, is conducted in Britain.

Until now, anyone who has felt

unfairly treated has been obliged to take an offending company or supplier to court, often at great cost, as an individual party to a contract. For example, if someone reads the small print on his booking form closely and objects to a clause about the possible cancellation fees, the only redress would be to take that tour operator to court individually and to try to seek a ruling in his favour. Even if he were to win, the company could go on publishing documents with unfairnesses built into them.

Once this new regulation becomes law on July 1, however, it will be open to anyone to ask the Office of Fair Trading to take up the case on their behalf and either

to persuade the company voluntarily to remove the offending clause or to obtain an injunction removing the words from all future publications.

This means that anybody could trawl travel-agency shelves, pick over the holiday brochures and find some clause that might be construed as "unfair", and try to persuade the OFT to take up, and pay for, the case and to obtain an injunction preventing the clause from being repeated. It would not matter whether or not the complainant was involved.

The National Consumer Council, the Consumers' Association



The Travel Business  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

and Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer spokesman, all believe that the new law does not go far enough. The OFT is hardly renowned for taking on prosecutions, they say, and other bodies, including, of course, the NCC and the CA, should be able to bring the action. They are confident that within a few weeks they will have

won the right to seek a judicial review claiming that the right to seek injunctions preventing unfair actions should not be confined to the OFT.

The Government is not worried. The Department of Trade and Industry, which first published the regulations in December, has not spelt out the implications of the new rules to the trade and says it may not even do so until after they become law.

The travel trade has taken a somewhat condescending view of the impending legislation. The Association of British Travel Agents, for example, is convinced that the new rules will simply harmonise laws throughout the

European Union and bring the rest of Europe into line with what has been law in Britain for years. "We already have more than enough laws to ensure we behave fairly," they say.

Hundreds of British lawyers who have set up shop in Brussels to try to pick through the European legislative thickets do not see the situation so simply — nor do those who specialise in travel in this country. They want to persuade travel companies to read their terms and conditions a little more closely before the new law comes into being.

Nick Benson, who specialises in

travel legislation for the London solicitors Rowe & Maw, says: "I think it is rather more important and significant than it has been given credit for."

Not only will tour operators' brochures be open to increased scrutiny for hidden unfairness, but the conditions of carriage printed on airline tickets may also be subjected to OFT action.

The drive is on to bring Britain fully into line with our partners in Europe, especially in travel and tourism, which play such an important role in the European economies. Perhaps, therefore, we can look forward to the harmonisation of VAT at the average European rate of less than 10 per cent on hotels, restaurants and tourist activities.

On the other hand, perhaps not. That, doubtless, will go into the tray marked "Too Difficult".

## Silver service for the golden generation

Travel firms ignore the older customer at their peril, says Harvey Elliott

A hard-hitting report into the growing importance of the "grey market" has shattered the travel industry's traditional view of older clients and is forcing tour operators to take people over the age of 55 more seriously than ever before.

The report, by London-based Market Assessment Publications (Maps), says that within five years there will be more than 22.5 million "grays" in Britain, about 37 per cent of the population.

While the population as a whole will have risen by 15 per cent between 1961 and 2021, the number of older people will have gone up by 40 per cent in the same period. Most will have retired — on average, at the age of 55 — and they will be demanding the highest-quality holiday for their available disposable income.

The report destroys the long-held belief that holiday marketing should be targeted at youth. It paints a picture of a new generation of older, wiser, wealthier and more demanding clients that the travel industry must now look at if their demands are to be satisfied.

The report says: "People who are reaching the age of 55 now were born in 1940, which means that they have spent the formative part of their lives in the consumer boom that has characterised UK society since the Second World War. This generation is unlikely to stick to stereotypical roles — it tends to be

marketing and advertising literate and behaviourally willing to experiment in its consumption patterns.

"The 'fiftysomethings' have a special characteristic which marketers ignore at their peril — they are used to being first.

"They were the first generation to be treated as consumers by the sweeping changes in mass marketing in the 1960s and 1970s. They were the first to challenge authority in the 1960s. They were also the first to challenge gender stereotypes as women attained control over their bodies and gained economic independence.

"They were the first to be both physically and socially mobile through education, economic growth and mass overseas travel. They were the first generation to challenge 'ageing' seriously.

"This generation of New Old are cash, time and experience-rich, but they are not easy pickings. They are cynical about marketing and can spot a promotional ploy a mile off." The Maps report does not pull punches. It says that, after the age of 74, the "fourth age" begins. This is "characterised by growing ill-health and an increased lack of mobility."

But "those who ignore those aged over 55 in the marketing of their products and services will be ignoring an increasingly wealthier part of our society, with time and money to spend."



Older customers, like these Cosmos Golden Years travellers, demand quality service on holiday

Two out of five people over the age of 55 will be healthier and wealthier than their parents were, will be willing to experiment with activities, lifestyle and consumption and are classified as "ABCs" — the highest marketing category. But to sell holidays to them simply on the basis of their age could lead them to feel patronised or even insulted, says Maps.

About 22 per cent of people aged between 55 and 74 — known in marketing terms as Third Ageds — spend money on holidays in Britain and another 18 per cent spend money abroad. Cruise holidays are

particularly popular with the over-45s and more than half the winter sun holiday market is snapped up by them.

One of the main reasons for the available cash to spend on holidays is that 51 per cent of over-55s have now paid off their mortgage. Only 15 per cent are still paying a mortgage and 32 per cent rent their homes.

Because many older people in the UK have higher disposable incomes, they take more holidays and offer "excellent potential business in otherwise quieter times as they have less commitment to a work-

place or are concerned with children's school holiday times," says the report.

"Greys are an ideal target market for off-peak times, when they can often be offered extremely competitively priced deals."

Already many travel companies — notably Saga, Cosmos, with its Golden Years brochure, and Thomson, through its Young at Heart packages — are taking the grey market seriously. But the report is certain to trigger an even bigger blitz on what is being recognised as the most important sector of the leisure market.

## Destinations for political tourists

Gill Williams suggests a few new options in Asia for gung-ho travellers

North Korea is to follow Vietnam and Burma in opening its doors to foreigners, just eight months after the death of Kim Il Sung, its Stalinist leader. Scamanderian has two 12-day tours via Bangkok to Pyongyang arranged for April 26 and May 1 at a cost of £1,995 a person inclusive. Ian Woolgar, the managing director, says he hopes to arrange other tours for the summer.

But British travel representative Neil Taylor, of Regent Holidays, says that the country is still "security obsessed" and advises only the most intrepid tourists to visit. "They will not even give out train or bus timetables."

North Korea is a destination for the traveller seeking a political experience," he says. Regent Holidays has long specialised in travel to socialist countries with closed borders, and pioneered trips into Albania, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The company is taking bookings on behalf of British-run Koryo Tours in Peking, which is selling seven-day holidays to attend the Pyongyang International Sports and Culture Festival for Peace in the North Korean capital at the end of April.

Regent's main concern is the possibility of disruption and delays should there be hiccups in relations between North Korea and the West. Transport options to the country are limited: by train or twice weekly flights from China, or by rail from Russia. Aeroflot has pulled out of North Korea.

However, Nick Bonner, of Koryo Tours, says Western visitors will be pleasantly surprised by the quality of food in North Korea — better

than the fare associated with most hardline socialist countries. He says visitors can stay not only in good hotels and guesthouses but are also welcome in private homes.

Such has been the easing of relations with the United States that North American companies are already investing in North Korea's first free-trade zone.

Transport difficulties are still holding up the development of tourism to Burma, despite the country having decided to admit foreign visitors.

Tour operators to the country are hoping for the opening of the land border with China. They would also like to see the opening of the Chinese land border with Vietnam.

Travel to Vietnam is easy and safe, with reliable domestic transport and hotels to suit visitors on all budgets. Independent travel specialist STA says Vietnam is one of its fastest-growing travel destinations.

A spokesman says: "Vietnam is at the stage that Thailand was six years ago. You can travel direct from Amsterdam with KLM or take a cheap flight via Bangkok."

The company is wary about sending travellers to Laos and Cambodia. Laos admits visitors only as part of a tour group. Cambodia is easier to get to, but the Foreign Office advises against travelling there because of renewed fighting outside the capital. "But there will always be intrepid travellers who want to go there anyway," says the spokesman. "If they do, we strongly advise hiring a guide locally, because there are still a great many landmines."

Visitors will be pleasantly surprised by the food in North Korea

### TRAVEL NEWS BRIEF

#### Australia for £499

A SEVEN-night holiday in Australia, including flights and accommodation for only £499, was offered last night. Fourteen nights for £599 or 21 nights for £699 is being made available this winter by the fast-expanding tour operator Airtravellers (01706-260000). The price even includes all departure taxes.

The flights will be on Airtravellers International Boeing 767 jets via Bahrain and Singapore. The price compares with a standard economy single fare on a scheduled airline of £1,766, a club-class return of £4,544 and a first-class single of £6,352.

□ The air will soon be almost completely smoke-free. From November 1, all of Britain's main charter airlines have agreed to smoking ban on flights lasting under six hours. The general secretary of the Federation of Tour Operators, Alan Flook, says the number of complaints from non-smokers has risen to such a level that the federation has decided

to ask its members to impose a smoking ban as soon as possible. All Virgin Atlantic's scheduled flights — except those to Tokyo — are to go smoke-free from May 1.

□ Bluebird Express (01444 235678) is offering seats on the first non-stop charter flights to Las Vegas, Nevada, starting from March 20. Leisure International's long-range Boeing 767s will operate from Gatwick on the ten-hour flights and prices, including three nights' accommodation, all flights and transfers, start at £399.

□ Kuoni (01306 740500) has seven nights' stay at the Ferringhi Beach Hotel in Penang, Malaysia for £439, with flights leaving London every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, until June 30.

□ Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) is offering a £100 discount until the end of the month on all brochure prices to any destination in the West Indies when flying with British Airways. Prices now start at £817 for seven nights' bed and breakfast at Bucca-ner Bay, Barbados.

HARVEY ELLIOTT

## Soft focus on Scotland

Film locations prove attractive for tourists



In Scotland: Julia Roberts, Mel Gibson

Scottish tourist authorities are expecting a boost in visitors as four feature films, starring leading Hollywood actors such as Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson — and all filmed in Scotland — are premiered. David Churchill writes.

The Scottish Tourist Board (STB) hopes that the films, especially Rob Roy, featuring Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange, will do as much for tourism as Sleepless in Seattle did for Seattle and Crocodile Dundee did for Australia.

"We understand that Seattle in particular has become a major destination in the US as a result of the film," says Caroline Keith, from the STB. "We hope that the forthcoming films will do as much for us."

Apart from Rob Roy, which is due for release in May, the three other films shot in Scotland are Mary Riley with Julia Roberts, Brave Heart with Mel Gibson, and Loch Ness featuring Ted Danson. According to the STB, there is no special reason why Scotland has become popular with Hollywood film-makers.

But Scottish hotels and leisure operators are gearing up to cash in. The Gleneagles hotel at Auchtermuchty in Perthshire, for example, plans to offer a tailored visit to Rob Roy's local haunts, from May.

The anticipation is justified. One of the fastest growing areas of tourism in the UK is in showing visitors where films and television series were made.

"Both big and small screens can create spin-offs, particularly for far-flung parts of the country," points out a British Tourist Authority spokeswoman. "Our New York office, for example, received a huge number of enquiries about Stamford, in Lincolnshire, when Middlemarch was broadcast in the US."

A Holiday Which? survey makes Virgin the best British airline

## Singapore on top

THE BEST airline flying out of Britain is Singapore Airlines, according to a survey of 50 airlines carried out among readers of Holiday Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, Harvey Elliott writes.

Although closely followed by Air New Zealand and Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines received more accolades than any other. The top-rated British airline in the survey, in which readers were asked which airline they would recommend to a friend, is Virgin Atlantic.

Unsurprisingly, Virgin did very well in its in-flight entertainment, with 88 per cent of passengers saying they had a good time on board. British Airways, says the

report, has "improved significantly overall... with high levels of satisfaction for check-in efficiency, leg room, seat comfort and cleanliness, although it performed poorly on catering and value for money". British Midland was regarded most highly on domestic routes and Britannia was the most praised charter airline. Overall, some 89 per cent of respondents thought that their flight represented very good or fairly good value for money.

Balkan Bulgarian Airlines, however, came firmly at the bottom of the league table. More than half the respondents found the seating uncomfortable and 96 per cent said they were poorly entertained.

### TEN BEST

Singapore Airlines  
Air New Zealand  
Cathay Pacific  
Qantas  
EI  
Swire  
Thai Airways Int  
Virgin Atlantic  
SAS  
KLM

### TEN WORST

Balkan Bulgarian Airlines  
Ambassador Airways  
Continental Airlines  
Spartan  
Olympic Airways  
British World Airlines  
Northwest Airlines  
Alitalia  
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## NEWS

## Memo urges caution on Europe

A leaked Whitehall paper has cast serious doubts on John Major's hopes of giving Westminster a bigger say over Brussels and says Britain will face opposition from more centralist member states and the European Parliament.

The briefing paper, prepared for a senior Cabinet minister, warns ministers that any attempt to strengthen the powers of national parliaments through amendments to the Treaty of Rome would be "fraught with difficulty". Page 1

## Government under fire over power sale

The Government was facing the threat of legal action from aggrieved shareholders last night after disclosing that it considered calling off its latest electricity sale as late as last Friday because it knew that new curbs on power prices were under consideration. Page 1

## Fletcher sacked

Keith Fletcher, manager of the England cricket team, has been sacked. Ray Illingworth will combine his present post of chairman of selectors with the manager's job. Page 1

## Sinn Fein talks

Face-to-face talks between government ministers and Sinn Fein representatives could begin without the IRA handing over a single weapon, Downing Street sources claim. Page 1

## Leeson will talk

Nick Leeson is willing to tell all he knows about the Barings collapse to the Serious Fraud Office in the hope that he will be extradited to Britain. Page 2

## 'Ringer' case revived

The case of Flockton Grey, the "ringer" alleged to have made £20,000 for its owner, is to return to the courts 11 years after the owner's conviction for conspiracy to defraud bookmakers. Page 3

## Holy matrimony

After two days of talks, representatives of the Church of England and the Methodist Church announced that they are to begin moves towards unity. Page 5

## Blake sentence

A new biography reveals that the spy George Blake was sentenced to a record 42 years in prison in 1961 after a secret deal with the Lord Chief Justice. Page 7

## Bike-shed smokers register as addicts

An exclusive independent school has reversed the growing trend of smoking among teenage girls by making them register as nicotine addicts to qualify for a daily cigarette ration. Fifth and sixth-formers may register with the doctor to be issued with one or two cigarettes a day while they are weaned off the habit. The school claims a high success rate. Page 6

## Charity inquiry

The Charity Commission is investigating complaints that a children's charity chaired by a friend of the Duchess of York has raised up to £1 million and failed to account for its use. Page 9

## Saudi wins appeal

Muhammad al-Massari, a leading Saudi dissident, has won an appeal against a Home Office decision refusing him political asylum in Britain. Page 11

## Balladur setback

Edouard Balladur's bid to become French President suffered a setback after it emerged that he earned 2.5 million francs from share dealings just before his appointment in 1993. Page 12

## General found dead

Jacques Lefebvre, a retired Belgian air force general questioned over bribes scandals, has been found dead after apparently taking his own life. Page 13

## US envoys killed

Karachi's law and order crisis has escalated with the murder of two American consulate workers, the first time foreigners have been targeted. Pages 14, 19

## Gingrich assault

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, has taken the offensive against the Democrats and launched a broadside against all aspects of America's liberal establishment. Page 15



Elizabeth Hurley at a news conference in New York yesterday after she was signed to promote Estée Lauder perfumes and cosmetics

## Lottery: The arrival of the National Lottery has prompted a drastic revision of the value of the Vernons football pools business, after sales fell by 15 per cent. Page 25

## Submarines: The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been granted a month-long extension to report into rival takeover bids for VSEL. Page 25

## BAT: BAT, the tobacco and insurance giant, has set aside £123 million to cover potential compensation for mis-selling of pensions. Page 25

## Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 15.1 points to close at 2992.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 86.5 to 86.0 after a fall from \$1.6242 to \$1.6220 and from DM2.2604 to DM2.2489. Page 28

## Cricket: Keith Fletcher was dismissed as England team manager, with half of his five-year contract to run. Raymond Illingworth assumes full-time charge of all team affairs. Page 48

## Rugby union: Scotland will be unchanged for their grand slam match with England. Ireland made six changes for the wooden spoon match with Wales. Page 42

## Football: Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, should have the support of most Premiership managers in his attempt to improve refereeing standards. Page 44

## Boxing: At the 88th University match philosophers will hit political scientists and historians will pummel linguists with an intent recognisable in any gym. Page 46

## ARTS

## Aphorisms on screen: The bright wags of the Algonquin Round Table are the subject of the new film Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle. Also reviewed this week: Demi Moore and Michael Douglas in the "reverse sexual harassment" movie Disclosure; and Jodie Foster's latest, Nell. Page 35

## New mates: Simon Ward has taken over the role in Call Meas so famously vacated by Stephen Fry. But will that be enough to save Simon Gray's play. Page 36

## Space-age museums: Two new museums in The Netherlands reveal the exhilarating aspects of "punk architecture". Page 37

## New for viola: Viol music revived at the Purcell Room in honour of Purcell's tercentenary. Page 35

## FEATURES

## Death penalty: As New York this week becomes the 38th state to reinstate capital punishment, Martin Fletcher talks to a man who spent nine years on death row for a crime he did not commit. Page 17

## Testing danger: In an increasingly sanitised environment, are we losing our ability to cope with the natural world? Magnus Linklater reports. Page 17

## BODY AND MIND

## Mental torture? Ian Robertson on the difference between flotation tanks and sensory deprivation techniques. Page 16

## BOOKS

## Rabindranath Tagore: Winning the Nobel Prize convinced the Indian writer lauded by Pound and Yeats that he was supposed to be a guru, says P.N. Furbank. Page 38

## THE PAPER

## The dollar hit new lows against the German mark and Japanese yen yesterday. But the policy that could turn the dollar around — a stricter monetary policy — could also suffocate an already slowing economy. The New York Times

## The death penalty isn't the answer to voters' fear of crime. Life in prison without parole can be imposed faster, with the same effective results, at a fraction of the cost. And it is reversible. USA Today

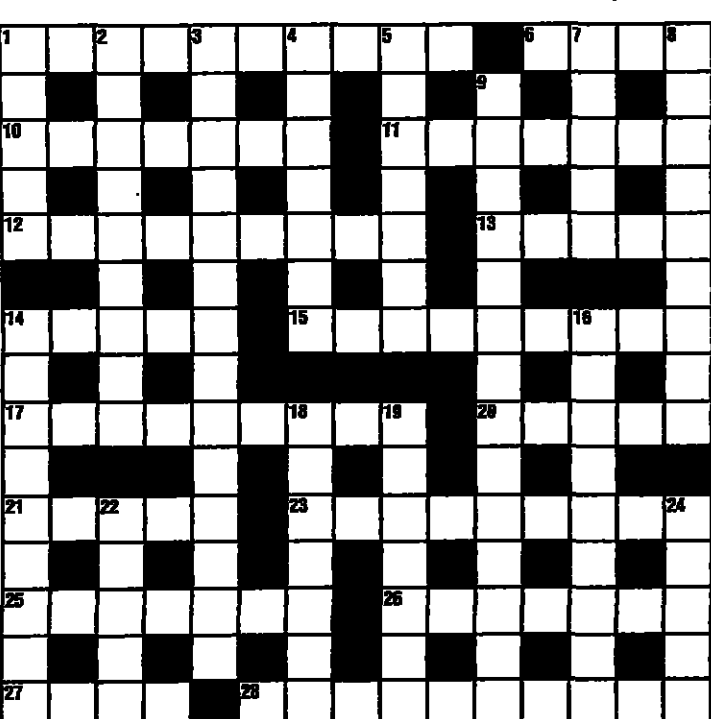
## IN THE TIMES

■ NEVER ENOUGH  
Barry White: the deepest voice in popular music is back

■ GAY BISHOP  
The Rt Rev Derek Rawcliffe, the first bishop to declare his homosexuality, meets Valerie Grove



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,798



## ACROSS

- 1 Violent offender reported after game (10)
- 6 Fruit is unripe, green — like iron to start with (4)
- 10 Gasbag not finished? Wrap up! (7)
- 11 Not hurt when husband left, but vulnerable (7)
- 12 US poet really broke the ice (9)
- 13 Make car stop, causing delay (5)
- 14 Here, almshouses are not all in the country (5)
- 15 The place to see a show of meadow-saffron? (5,4)
- 17 For example, Ariel's little sea change? (9)
- 20 Selector's vase, say, that's used for storing the ashes (5)
- 21 Maiden in difficulty with a dance (5)

## DOWN

- 23 It's enough to make one a treble (9)
- 25 Restaurant with its own cutlery (7)
- 26 Inferior duck's lower part (7)
- 27 Fake national emblem is without foundation (4)
- 28 Waits outside anchorage to deliver bombardments (10)
- 1 Unit in joint exercise (5)
- 2 Worship fellow Rugebeian in ritual of brotherly affection (4,5)
- 3 Editor's advice for young readers' entertainment (6-2,6)
- 4 Was about to mark one from the elks (7)
- 5 International currency business run from S America (7)
- 7 Vocal old woman character (5)
- 8 Semi-nude in Bellini composition can't be removed (9)
- 9 Misrepresentations produced by freelance pests (5,9)
- 14 Regulates hampers (9)
- 16 Eden's dormitory suburb? (4,2,3)
- 18 Ring round to one who recites in singsong manner (7)
- 19 Leader of uneconomic area is involved in a Continental union (7)
- 22 Divine nourishment in Indo-China when climbing (5)
- 24 River bed is without rubbish (5)

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,797

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INFLUENTIAL BANG  
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## FORECAST

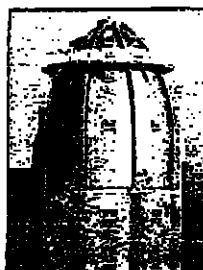
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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Good news of the third ERM crisis



ARTS 35-37

Two museums for the 21st century open in Holland



BOOKS 38, 39

Sir Walter Scott: the legend and the life

COUSINS MAKES HIS MARK  
Page 45

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY MARCH 9 1995

## Bundesbank throws ERM a lifeline

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank yesterday said that it may cut interest rates to help bail out Europe's battered currencies on the day four stalwart members of the exchange-rate mechanism were forced to raise interest rates.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, said the bank would test room for a small interest rate cut. He also said he expected to see a correction soon of the dollar, which plunged to another record low against the yen in Far East trading overnight.

Public comment on interest rates or currencies is unusual for the German central bank and is testament to how deep official concerns have become about the turbulence in the currency markets. Yesterday, there were hints by several leading politicians and central bankers that the international authorities are now co-operating and talking closely on how to stabilise the situation.

Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, came out strongly in defence of the dollar, saying its fall was unwelcome, troublesome and in all likelihood overdue. As the man who contributed to the currency's plunge when he hinted that US interest rates were now near their peak, his remarks yesterday appeared to suggest the opposite in an attempt to support the dollar.

He said the weak dollar contributed to potential inflation pressures, which must be contained and that, although the economy was slowing, it was uncertain whether it was enough to contain price pressures.

The verbal lifeboats were launched after France, Belgium, Denmark and Portugal all raised rates, citing the plunge in their currencies against the mark in recent days. Edmond Alphandery, France's Economics Minister, said that "international co-operation is now underway" and that he expected results.

Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, said that economic and financial fundamentals were much better than the current franc rate suggested. Germany and France have been the twin pillars of moves towards economic and monetary union and the present attack on the franc, which echoes the assault on the French currency in summer 1993, is a reminder of the severe threat to the whole process posed by the currency markets.

There was no matching rate rise in Britain in spite of sterling's slump to record lows against the German currency. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England,

met for their regular monthly meeting yesterday facing a serious dilemma. On one hand, failure to match rising interest rates elsewhere in Europe could put the pound under even further pressure. On the other, the two were faced with more evidence that activity in manufacturing, which has been powering the recovery, is continuing to slow.

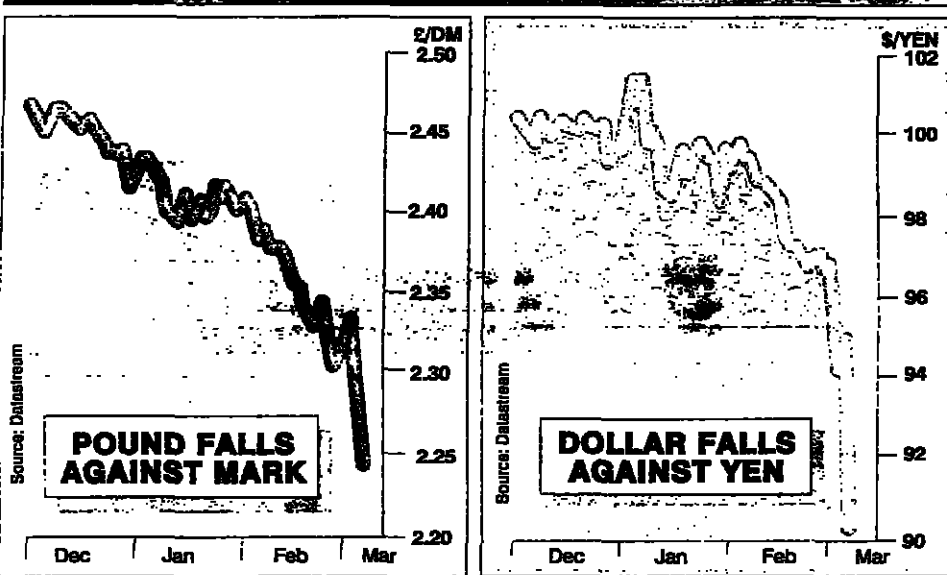
The pound hit a new low of DM2.2205 but recovered to DM2.2530 by late European trading, helped by a rebound in the dollar after supportive comments from the Fed and the Bundesbank.

Herr Tietmeyer's hint that German interest rates may be lowered represents an extraordinary turnaround. Only two weeks ago, economists were speculating on when German rates would rise but the massive flows out of the dollar and many European currencies into the mark appear to have produced a climate for the opposite move.

The dollar had plummeted to record lows of Y88.75 and DM1.3450 overnight but rebounded strongly after the statements by Mr Greenspan and Herr Tietmeyer. In late European trading, the US currency was quoted at Y91.65 and DM1.4000.

Yesterday's strong verbal support for the dollar appears to have had a considerable effect in the short term, but currency dealers continued to argue that concrete steps — interest rate moves — were needed to stabilise the markets in the medium term.

Pennington, page 27  
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29



Amidst the currency turmoil Eddie George has time to pause before talks with the Chancellor

## Power shares continue to fall

By MARTIN WALLER AND ERIC REGULY

SHARES in electricity companies fell heavily for the second day yesterday after the shock re-opening of the debate on price controls by the industry regulator on Tuesday, wiping out further potential profits on the newly-issued shares in the two generators.

Worst affected was Northern Electric, which has decided to recommend a hostile bid from Trafalgar House. Northern lost 104p to 793p compared to a cash offer on the table of £11 from Trafalgar which expires at lunchtime tomorrow.

The fall came as the market took on board the implications of Northern's surrender to the £12 billion bid on Tuesday night. There is still doubt that Trafalgar will eventually want to take control at Northern.

But the market increasingly believes that Northern cannot now afford the £5-a-share package of incentives promised to its shareholders, even if it retains its independence.

Part-paid shares in the two generators, which started trading on Monday, fell further. PowerGen slipped 2p to 187p, while National Power was 1p lower at 175p. Both are barely above the price at which they were sold to the public, 170p for National Power and 185p for PowerGen.

Adding to the sector's woes was the inevitability that this summer's £4 billion flotation of the National Grid, jointly owned by the 12 regional electricity companies, would at best be severely delayed. There is the possibility that it may have to be shelved altogether if the companies decide they cannot afford to give it away under whatever new regulatory regime is imposed.

A meeting of marketing directors of the 12, scheduled for yesterday, was cancelled, a tacit acceptance that the industry has agreed that there is, at present, nothing to market.

## BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100 2882.1 (+15.1)  
Yield 4.50%  
FT-SE All share 1472.75 (+2.34)  
Nikkei 16621.31 (-333.97)  
New York 3974.74 (+12.11)  
S&P Composite 463.32 (+1.25)

Federal Funds 5 1/8% (5 1/8%)  
Long Bond 7.58% (7.58%)  
Yield 7.58% (7.58%)

3-month Interbank 6 1/4% (6 1/4%)  
Life long gift future (Mar) 100% (100%)

New York: 1.6190\* (1.6385)  
London: 1.6164 (1.6405)  
DM: 2.2530 (2.2570)  
FF: 5.0120 (5.0700)  
SF: 1.8900 (1.8750)  
Yen: 147.61 (149.07)  
2 Index: 58.0 (58.5)

Tokyo close Yen 89.53  
London close \$361.35 (\$361.45)  
\* denotes midday trading price

## Hovering

The Ministry of Defence is at last poised to place a £1 billion order for military transport helicopters. The order is expected to be divided between a consortium made up of Westland and Agusta, the Italian manufacturer, and the rival American group Boeing. Page 26

## Setting sun

The future of Standard Chartered's share trading business in the Far East is in doubt after it ran up losses during the past year. A review is trying to find ways of cutting high fixed costs. Page 31

## MMC gets more time for VSEL report

By ROSS TIEMAN

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been granted a month-long extension to report into rival take over bids by British Aerospace and GEC for VSEL, the Barrow in Furness submarine builder.

The key report, which was to have gone to Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, next Wednesday, will now be delivered on April 12.

The MMC findings, and Mr Heseltine's response, will set a formal framework for government attitudes to the accelerating rush of mergers among Britain's defence equipment makers.

GEC, which already owns the Yarrow frigate-building yard on Clyde-side, will dominate UK warship building if it is allowed to renew its £532 million bid for VSEL.

BAe, which offered £575 million for VSEL in an effort to extend its aerospace and armaments interests into warship building, remains determined to implement the strategy unveiled by its agreed takeover last autumn.

The Office of Fair Trading recommended examination only of the GEC bid, but Mr Heseltine insisted both were referred, because of the wider issues.

An MMC spokesman said: "The issues and complexity of this particular inquiry are such that we feel that we had to ask for another month to make sure we get it right."

Shares in GEC closed at 285p, up 2p. BAe rose 4p to 476p, but VSEL eased 27p to £14.98.

Pennington, page 27

## BAT makes provision on pension mis-selling

By SARAH BAGNALL

BAT INDUSTRIES, the tobacco and insurance group, said yesterday it had set aside £123 million to cover potential compensation for mis-selling of pensions by Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, its subsidiaries.

The charge is net of any professional indemnity cover. Market estimates of the total compensation package payable to individuals are as high as £3 billion. BAT's two insurance companies have a 6 per cent share of the pension transfer market.

However, BAT is not making a provision against possible damages arising from class legal actions in the US against tobacco companies.

Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman, said: "We have never put up any provisions in the past because we have never expected to lose, and we have never lost. We have not made any provisions because, again, we don't expect to lose."

Sir Patrick announced that pre-tax profits of £1.8 billion for the year to December 31. Profits were dented by a £191 million reorganisation charge for the integration of Ameri-

can Tobacco, acquired last year for \$81 billion.

About two-thirds of the £191 million charge is for redundancies among the acquired company's workforce of 3,000, which has been cut by 50 per cent already and is due to fall significantly further. The balance of the charge is for asset writedowns. Excluding the provision, profits would have risen 10 per cent, driven



Sheehy: flat profits

by a strong performance by the tobacco operations.

Underlying tobacco trading profits rose nine per cent, aided by a strong recovery in the US, where BAT is the third largest tobacco company. Worldwide cigarette sales rose 4 per cent to 572 billion cigarettes.

Financial services trading profits were flat at £902 million because of lower investment returns that offset advances in the underwriting performance.

Losses incurred by Farmers, the group's California-based insurer, as a result of the Los Angeles earthquake stand at \$1.7 billion. Eagle Star's profits fell £23 million to £157 million, while Allied Dunbar's post-tax surplus rose 9 per cent. Mortgage indemnity losses fell from £115 million to £48 million.

The final dividend, due on July 3, was lifted to 15.75p, making a total for the year of 21.9p, up from 20.1p last time. BAT is paying an additional 2.35p of foreign income dividends. Earnings per share rose two per cent to 39.1p.

## Lottery hits Ladbroke

THE arrival of the National Lottery in November has prompted a drastic revision of the value of the Vernons football pools business, owned by Ladbroke Group, after competition from the lottery sent sales down 15 per cent (Martin Waller writes).

Ladbroke, which reported full-year figures yesterday, has taken a £100 million loss by writing the value of the Vernons brand name off its balance sheet. The loss is one of a raft of one-off provisions that sent Ladbroke into a £229.8 million pre-tax loss in 1994, against £51.4 million profit.

Vernons profits fell £2.3 million to £13.1 million on turnover up 5 per cent at £174 million. But this only covered six weeks of the lottery.

The final dividend is 3.6p, making a same-again total of 6.0p, just covered by earnings before exceptional losses of 7.29p.

At the operating level before exceptional losses, profits fell just £1.2 million to £248.5 million after a better performance from betting and gaming was outweighed by a lower contribution from property.

Tempus, page 28

## Brothers giveth, Barings taketh away

By ROBERT MILLER

BROTHERS at Downside, Britain's leading and oldest Catholic public school have lost £50,000 invested in Barings's Preference Shares.

The £15 million that Downside Abbey Trustees, a registered charity, will have to cut back on bursaries and support for local churches and Downside Abbey, founded in 1607, near Bath.

Internationale Nederlanden Groep (ING), the Dutch bank and financial services group that has bought

Barings, has already made a one-off £10 million payment to the charitable Barings Foundation. The Downside charity hopes that ING will consider making an ex-gratia payment to make good its loss.

Father Charles, the Abbot of Downside, last night said: "We were advised to invest in the perfectly respectable Barings Preference Shares. It would seem to be quite unjust that substantial payments should be promised to the Barings Foundation, which held Ordinary shares while others are being left out in the cold."

Barings is expected to open its doors for business again today, two weeks after the losses run up in Singapore by Nick Leeson allegedly caused the collapse of the bank.

ING and Barings's administrators, Ernst & Young, the accountancy group, were due finally to complete the transfer of ownership yesterday. The official completion of the deal means that Barings's £2.5 billion deposits that were frozen when the bank went into administration can now be withdrawn. ING was stealing itself today for a run on deposits.

Abbey National yesterday moved to distance itself from the Barings collapse. It changed the name of its derivatives operation to Abbey National Financial Products, from Abbey National Barings Derivatives.

Almost 100 staff at Barings Securities in Singapore were celebrating the end of uncertainty, with the news yesterday that they will be included in the rescue takeover by ING.

Leeson offer, page 2  
Hu interview, page 29  
Accountancy, page 33

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# MoD poised to place £1bn order for helicopters

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence is at last poised to place a £1 billion order for military transport helicopters. The order is expected to be divided between the EH101 consortium made up of Westland and Agusta, the Italian manufacturer, and Boeing of America.

Westland and its partner are expected to receive a £500 million contract to supply 22 transport versions of their new EH101 aircraft. Boeing, meantime, will be asked to deliver up to 15 of its larger, twin-rotor Chinook machines.

Ministers from the defence and trade departments are expected to sign the necessary contracts before today's Cabinet meeting.

The contract to supply military transport versions of EH101 will bolster the fortunes of Westland, which has been hampered by a severe shortage of orders. It will also be welcomed by GKN, which acquired Westland last April as part of a drive to build up its defence business.

GKN is expected today to announce doubled profits for 1994 of about £200 million. Compensation payments for a

cancelled Westland order in the Middle East will have helped GKN to build up a cash surplus of about £250 million. But a Ministry of Defence endorsement of the EH101 military transport is vital to the future of Westland and its 6,000 employees in Yeovil, Somerset.

Last year, the company delivered only one new helicopter, although development and refurbishment work helped to maintain sales by the helicopter business at about £300 million.

Production is expected to rise to nine machines this year, as the company fulfils Sea King contracts for the Royal Navy and the Norwegian navy, and delivers Lynx helicopters to the Brazilian navy.

But the success of the EH101 will be the bedrock of Westland's battle to survive in an international market, which is widely perceived to be oversupplied with helicopter makers. Westland has already secured orders to supply 44 Merlin anti-submarine versions of the EH101 to the Royal Navy. A civil version has been certificated, but has yet to

secure any orders. Boeing fought hard to win the entire order, offering to place work of twice the value of the contract with British firms.

Royal Air Force chiefs favoured the Chinook, which can carry twice the payload of the EH101. But the EH101 flies further, faster, and in all weathers, and should prove cheaper to maintain in the long run.

With the initial contract secured, Westland will be able to offer the machine to replace military Sea King and Puma helicopters later in the decade, as well as bidding to supply transport and anti-submarine versions overseas.

The MoD has contributed £1 billion to the development of the EH101, a sum matched by the Italian Government. Production work is equally divided between Westland and Agusta, making the impending contract worth about £250 million to Westland.

With a sizeable transport aircraft order under its belt, Westland will also be better placed to bid to supply the Army with its first specialised attack-helicopters.



David Wellings, left, and Dominic Cadbury, chairman

## Cadbury sales top £4bn for first time

By Susan Gilchrist

CADBURY Schweppes shrugged off concerns over the UK cola wars yesterday to unveil a 15 per cent jump in profits as sales topped £4 billion for the first time.

Pre-tax profits rose to £478.5 million from £416.3 million in the year to December 31 on sales of £4 billion, up from £3.7 billion. The result was at the bottom end of analysts' expectations, which had been set after Cadbury forecast profits of not less than £475 million in January when it announced the £1.1 billion takeover of Dr Pepper/Seven-Up, the US soft drinks group.

Profit growth was fuelled by another strong performance from the UK operations, where trading profits increased 22 per cent. The beverages side had a record year despite the launch of own brand colas by the leading supermarket chains. Profits from continental Europe were hit by further provisions for the restructuring of the Spanish drinks business.

David Wellings, chief executive, said the priority this year was to integrate Dr Pepper. A second interim dividend of 11p was paid on March 3 instead of a final payment to give a total of 15.6p (14.4p).

Tempus, page 28

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Lloyds Chemists set to shut Supersave

LLOYDS CHEMISTS is set to close Supersave, its drugstore chain, with the loss of about 600 jobs. Peter Lloyd, chief executive, said that Supersave had been hit by the supermarkets' expansion into toiletries and the rise of local discount retailers. The results of a strategic review have yet to be finalised. However, Mr Lloyd expects 180 stores will be converted to a new upmarket health and beauty format, while a further 30 will be transferred to Holland & Barrett, the group's health food chain. The remaining 100 will be closed.

Pre-tax profits at Lloyds edged up to £26.6 million, from £26.2 million, in the six months to December 31. Earnings per share rose to 14.04p from 13.96p. The interim dividend is raised to 2.4p (2.7p) and will be paid to shareholders on June 9.

## Beazer Homes grows

BEAZER HOMES said successive rises in interest rates undermined the residential property market in January, but by February reservations had returned to 1994 levels. The company is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.95p a share from earnings of 6.2p, rising from 4.6p. In the half year to December 31, pre-tax profits rose to £24.5 million, from £15.6 million. The number of home completions totalled 3,301, up from 2,210.

## De La Rue sale close

THE management of Portals Engineering, one of the eight businesses put up for sale by De La Rue, the banknote printer, in the wake of its takeover of Portals, the paper group, in December, is close to agreeing to buy the firm for £10 million. De La Rue, which is being advised by Flemings on the disposals, hopes to complete the sale in the next two to three months. The management buyout is being led by Dave Humphries, the company's managing director.

## Perkins-Korean deal

PERKINS diesel engines are to be produced in South Korea through a long-term partnership with Haila Group, a Korean conglomerate. The collaboration, which will be managed by Perkins' European headquarters in Peterborough, was announced during a visit to Britain by President Kim of Korea. Under the first stage of the agreement, Perkins will transfer the technology of its Eagle automotive engines and 1000 series and 2000 series industrial diesels.

## SIG soars to £19.8m

PROFITS at SIG, the acquisitive company formerly known as Sheffield Insulations, surged to £19.8 million from £9.8 million last year. The company recommends a final dividend of 4p a share, lifting total dividends 11 per cent to 6p, payable from earnings of 18.2p a share (12.7p). The shares eased 3p to 236p. Turnover rose to £291 million from £170.7 million. The company expects market conditions in 1995 to remain broadly similar to last year.



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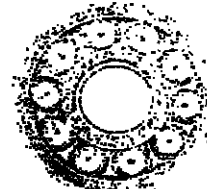
REPORT ON 1994 OPERATIONS. Consolidated income after financial income and expense for the 1994 fiscal year amounted to 1 817 million Swedish kronor (466p). Group sales totalled SEK 33 273 m (29 200p). Volumes increased by approximately 14 percent.

Demand for rolling bearings accelerated during 1994. The recovery was unexpectedly strong in Europe. The greatest increases took place in the passenger cars and trucks sector. Demand also increased in machinery industry and aftermarkets. Earnings per share amounted to SEK 11.05 (2.95p). The return on capital employed was 14.7 percent (13.4) and on shareholders' equity 13.3 percent (11.4). Group solvency amounted to 30.8 percent (26.7) at year-end.

DIVIDEND. The Board of Directors proposes that a dividend of SEK 4.25 per share (to) be paid. The total proposed dividend is SEK 480 m (0).

FORECAST. Demand for the Group's products continues to be strong. It is estimated that prices will be more favourable than in 1994, whereby a further improvement in earnings is anticipated.

WEIGHT RATE OF EXCHANGE. 1994: 1 SEK = 11.80p. 1993: 1 SEK = 11.60p. For a copy of the 1994 Annual Report, please contact: SKF Group Public Affairs, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden. Tel: +46-31-37 10 00. Fax: +46-31-37 17 22.



SKF

# BAT INDUSTRIES

## Dividend up 9%

- continuing strength in profits and cash flow

Preliminary results for the year to 31 December 1994

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,802m	
EARNINGS PER SHARE	39.1p	+2%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	21.90p	+9%
- Additional FID payment on 1994 final	2.35p	

- Pre-tax profit is after a £191m reorganisation provision for American Tobacco. Without the provision, profit would have been 10 per cent higher at £1,993m.
- Tobacco trading profit increased by 9 per cent to £1,207m on an underlying basis. Strong recovery in US, good performances elsewhere but a difficult first half in Brazil. Group cigarette volumes rose 4 per cent, with exports up 13 per cent.
- Financial services trading profit of £902m from continuing businesses was flat, as lower investment returns more than offset a much improved underwriting performance. Funds managed by subsidiaries of £42bn.
- "With the continuing strength of our profits and cash flow, we remain confident of our ability to pay dividends well in excess of the rate of inflation. The Board is therefore recommending final dividends of 15.75p, based on an underlying increase of 9 per cent for the year.

Our first Foreign Income Dividend was tax efficient for the Company, well received by shareholders and we are pleased that we can pay 70 per cent of this year's final as a FID. Taxpaying shareholders will have received dividend increases of 30 per cent over two years."

Sir Patrick Sheehy, Chairman



□ Warship bid is tough issue for MMC □ Trafalgar's Northern lottery □ Currency storm should pass Britain by

## Arming the defence industry

BRITAIN is strong in services, such as pharmaceutical development, finance, communications, music and air travel. In manufacturing, the European leadership role in far too many key sectors has been ceded to continental rivals without much of a fight: civil aircraft and space technology to France, cars and lorries to Germany, shipbuilding and telephone exchanges to Germany and Scandinavia, power generating to France and Germany, transport to France and Sweden, consumer durables to Italy. The list is long. In many cases, the UK will remain a big manufacturer, but not the centre. In the hitherto protected, high-margin, defence industry, however, Britain is Europe's leader. This is not, perhaps, the ideal or most inspiring industry in which to have this leadership role: demand is falling and potential competition from Eastern Europe frightening. But it has acquired undue importance in British manufacturing as a centre for technology, excellence, exports and quality employment.

Rivals are well behind — at least, they have been well behind until now. In the next few years, everything will be up for grabs. The industry will consolidate, as in America. European armed forces will harmonise weaponry. Procurement will be rationalised, for ships, aircraft, tanks,

armoured cars, guns, missiles and the electronics that make up a rising proportion of arms costs. Unless companies, the Ministry of Defence and the DTI are unwontedly smart, Britain will lose again.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into rival bids by Britain's two prime defence groups for VSEL, the main warship builder, has therefore taken on unusual importance. The commission's verdicts, and Whitehall's response, are vital.

As yet, the strategy best adopted is unclear. Britain might aim for champions so strong that they can see off continental firms. But is this politically feasible? British companies could aim to lead Europe-wide multinationals, if allowed to. More realistic options might be to have British fingers in every pie, by collaborating on individual projects in shifting European consortiums or via fixed Airbus-style consortiums.

The one-month delay in vetting the bids for VSEL is a small indicator of the difficulties. Given the need for some com-

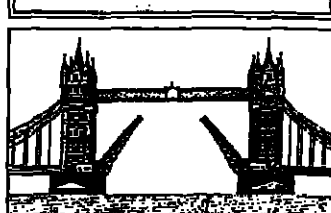
petition, the dangers of getting things wrong are immense. There are already warning signs. Continental countries are pressing heavily for the consortium approach. Since Britain is the strongest exporter to third countries, however, it is almost certain to lose from such a trend. Imagine a new al-Yamamah contract. It would have to be shared between French, German, Italian and Spanish companies as well as British. If that is the way forward, it is vital that Britain should make sure it has the largest share of joint companies from the start, in marked contrast to Airbus.

### Trafalgar charts uncertain course

ANY sort of investment in the electricity sector is now a guessing game, thanks to Stephen Littlechild, but investing in Northern probably ranks with the National Lottery as an assured way to a fortune.

Of vital importance is whether Trafalgar is buying Northern shares in the market, at £8

PENNINGTON



apiece, that it has pledged to pay £11 for tomorrow. Theoretically, Trafalgar could save itself a maximum of £50 million of its £1.2 billion bid if it vacuumed up 15 per cent of Northern at today's price rather than tomorrow's.

The indications, highly provisional, last night were that it is doing no such thing. As Northern plunged more than a pound for the second successive day, just one million shares or less than 1 per cent of the share capital changed hands. At the last count, on Tuesday night, market-makers at Swiss Bank Corporation, Trafalgar's adviser, held 1.3 million shares. Two weeks ago they had none. Time will tell, but the indications must be that Trafalgar is at least

unsure of the way forward until advisers have done the sums and worked out what the company is worth. Northern shareholders will not now get their £5 bundle of goodies promised even if they remain loyal, and on the above analysis they may not be assured of their £11 from Trafalgar. If shareholders do accept, Trafalgar will decide, presumably on March 31, whether it wishes to own Northern or walk away. This is well before the regulator is due to set any new price regime. Trafalgar will be placing its own bet, based on the little evidence anyone has of the unpredictable Professor's thinking. If Trafalgar walks away, Northern will then have to decide, once the new regime is known, how much of the goodies to pay out, or whether to do a little walking away itself.

The market believes that Professor Littlechild will settle for a new price cap of RPI minus 4. This would cost £50 million in lost revenue between next year and the end of the decade, no great loss given the size of the bid and the enormous tax advantages, easily topping £200 mil-

lion, it offers to Trafalgar. That suggests Trafalgar will go ahead — but no one knows. Keep watching the share register.

### Britain at ease in the maelstrom

IF Ken is as canny as he claims, and Eddie as steady, they will have decided to do absolutely nothing at yesterday's monthly meeting. When you are bobbing up and down in the wash of a big liner, it is not the moment to start rowing purposefully in any direction.

Having retreated since November, sterling has now moved decisively lower on the trade-weighted index than before the first of the recent interest rate rises on September 12. Judged by the sort of tests the Bank of England sets for itself, therefore, it has failed to convince the outside world of its anti-inflationary credentials. But this particular test does not necessarily prove anything.

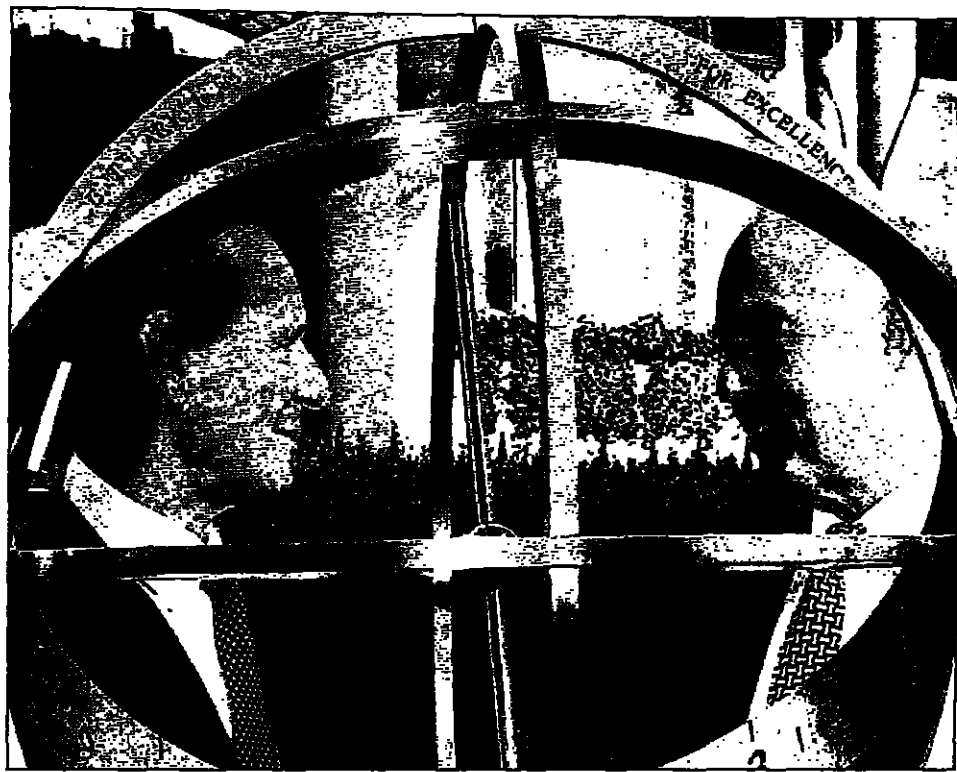
At home, growth is plainly slowing. Manufacturing output in the three months to end-

January was lower than in the previous three. So was the wider measure of industrial production. The downturn was concentrated in intermediate and investment goods; engineering was weak, albeit partly because of Government-induced chaos in the transport industry.

In out-of-character fanatical moments, the Bank frets that export growth might spur inflation by filling up unused capacity. That should not happen now. Devaluation during recession did not prove too inflationary. Aside from the credibility issue, sterling's weakness is also a healthy source of sustained future growth for the economy. The Treasury can surely live with export-led growth at a sustainable rate. Sometimes, it is comforting to be the helpless piggy in the middle.

### Something brewing

A NOTE from the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association informs the world that Anheuser Busch, the world's biggest brewer, is joining as an associate member, the same Anheuser for whom Courage brews beer at the old Watneys brewery in Mordlake, west London. Might Anheuser's new affiliation have anything to do with its rumoured plans to buy that brewery?



Asking for £193 million: Richard Oster, left, and Robert Malpas, chairman of Cookson

## Surprise rights hits Cookson

By CARL MORTISHED

COOKSON Group shares tumbled yesterday as the industrial materials company launched a £193 million rights issue and announced acquisition plans, including an agreement to buy Tolaram Fibres, an American specialist fibre manufacturer.

The surprise one-for-five cash call at 175p caused Cookson shares to fall from 217p to 197p, despite the announcement of strong sales and operating profits growth. Cookson, which last November called off merger talks with Johnson Matthey, the precious metals group, boosted underlying sales 14 per cent in the year to December to £1.5 billion, while pre-tax profits before exceptional items grew by 38 per cent to £120 million. Profits at the pre-tax level, including losses on business on the sale and closure of businesses, fell from £95 million to £51 million. Cookson is raising the dividend 11 per

cent to 7p after earnings of 14.8p (11p). Richard Oster, group chief executive, predicts the company will be cash positive before acquisitions in 1995. The company, which traditionally invests heavily, reduced its cash outflow last year to £5 million, despite capital spending of £158 million.

Cookson will pay \$35.9 million cash for Tolaram, which made pre-tax profits of \$14 million last year. The vendors will also receive shares worth about \$59 million issued by a Cookson subsidiary, plus a further \$2.3 million in cash contingent upon settlement of tax liabilities.

Cookson intends to merge Tolaram with Camac Corporation, its existing US fibres business, and rename the group Cookson Fibres.

Mr Oster said the purchase of Tolaram was part of the group's strategy to focus on higher growth and higher

margin businesses. He indicated that Cookson was in advanced negotiations to buy a business for the electronic materials division, while Cookson Matthey Ceramics, the recently formed joint venture with Johnson Matthey, was also negotiating to buy.

Mr Oster said that pro-forma gearing following the acquisitions would be 18-20 per cent, but would have risen to 60 per cent without the cash from the rights issue. Cookson also revealed yesterday it was in the process of selling a business in its plastics division.

Cookson yesterday reiterated its Vision 2000 objectives which aim to achieve compound sales growth of over 10 per cent and sales margins of 10 per cent plus. Mr Oster predicted that over the next five years group margins could reach 12-14 per cent.

Tempus, page 28

### Laporte ahead at £123m

A SHARP rise in raw material costs was comfortably absorbed by Laporte, the chemicals company, which broadly maintained margins and lifted pre-tax profits to £123.5 million last year from £107.4 million in 1993 (Martin Barrow writes).

Ken Minton, chief executive, said the current year opened satisfactorily, with most markets showing levels of activity similar to last year. With £59.2 million of capital expenditure in 1994, against £48.8 million previously, the benefits of a two-year investment programme would support further progress.

Turnover rose to £978.4 million (£893 million). The company recommends a final dividend of 14.5p a share, making 22.4p for the year (20.7p). Earnings advanced to 46.1p a share from 41.4p. The shares rose 20p to 656p.

## Doubled profits boost RTZ price

By CARL MORTISHED

SOARING metals prices produced bumper profits at RTZ, the mining group, last year, and Robert Wilson, chief executive, expects demand for metals in the leading economies to continue to strengthen.

Shares in RTZ rose almost 4 per cent to 758p as on news that pre-tax profits had more than doubled to £922 million after a 7 per cent increase in demand for copper on world markets. RTZ is increasing the total dividends for the year by more than a third to 27.5p, including foreign income dividends of 20.5p.

Excluding exceptional items, profits increased from £373 million to £595 million, with higher metal prices contributing £173 million of the gain. Volume growth brought in a further £35 million and efficiencies added £32 million, but exchange rate effects held profits back by £21 million.

RTZ believes that the growth in demand for metals

will continue in spite of a recent softening in commodity prices on futures exchanges. Concern over a slowdown in the American recovery caused investors to reduce their positions in base metals, but RTZ reckons metal prices are a long way from their peak.

Mr Wilson said: "Overall production volumes, adjusted earnings and dividends were all at record levels notwithstanding metal prices being 32 per cent below their 1988 peak levels."

Copper and gold sales brought in £109 million of the profit increase. RTZ's acquisition of a 10 per cent interest in Freeport McMoRan from \$450 million will give the mining group a 40 per cent interest in any expansion of production at Grasberg in Irian Jaya, Indonesia, a huge copper reserve.

Tempus, page 28  
City Diary, page 29

## Shares plunge as Costain says takeover unlikely

SHARES in Costain plunged from 18½p to 12½p yesterday after the troubled construction group revealed that it was not likely to receive a takeover bid, a reversal of an announcement made last month (George Sivell writes). Costain was forced to announce on February 2 that it was in

talks concerning a bid for the whole company and an offer for its American coal mining business after a rise in the share price to 24p.

Bovis, P&O's construction arm, emerged as favourite to take over Costain, with Hanson also thought of by the market as a possible suitor. Yesterday, however, Costain said it was

selling only its interest in Dolet Hills mining in the US for £47 million and, in the absence of a buyer, was holding on to the rest of the US mining business at a cost of a £100 million write off. The City is now likely to downgrade profits forecasts for 1995

with initial snap estimates of break even. Costain said yesterday it had renegotiated its banking facilities for the group and that the takeover talks it had been engaged in would "if successfully concluded, lead to a significant strengthening of engineering and construction operations."

## GLOBAL EXPANSION IN BEVERAGES AND CONFECTIONERY



### 1994 RESULTS

"I am pleased to report excellent progress in 1994 with pre-tax profit up 14.9% to £478.5m. The trading margin increased from 11.7% to 12.5% and volume growth was also stronger."

Sales	£4,029.6m	+ 8.2%
Trading Profit	£504.4m	+ 15.7%
Pre-Tax Profit	£478.5m	+ 14.9%
Headline Earnings per Share	31.52p	+ 6.2%
Dividend per Share	15.60p	+ 8.3%

Headline earnings per share increased by 6.2% while published earnings per share rose by 2.8%. A second interim dividend of 11.00 pence was paid instead of a final dividend to give a total of 15.60 pence for the year, an increase of 8.3%.

We have continued to broaden the base of the business with confectionery acquisitions in Continental Europe and our 1994 performance enabled us to support significant investment for future profits growth in developing markets. The acquisition of Dr Pepper / Seven-Up in the US early in 1995 represents a major strategic milestone in the largest soft drinks market in the world.

The 1994 results demonstrate our ability to succeed in competitive markets. We are confident that the enlarged Group is well placed for future growth."

*Dominic Cadbury*

Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

# Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE







# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Ringside seat to see Tiny

PEOPLE queue round the block for the Harrods sale. They sleep in the streets for tickets to the Last Night of the Proms. But at the Barbican Hall on March 24, it promises to be a seat in the room only when Lomho holds its 86th annual meeting. Tiny Rowland, ousted last week as a Lomho director and employee, tells me he has every intention of being there, even though for the first time in 34 years he will not be on the podium. For Sir John Leahy, for whom this will be his first meeting as chairman, the agm could be a diplomatic nightmare. Tiny says: "I do own almost 50 million shares. And I will be there." If he speaks, Lomho's meeting could be explosive. But for the outbreak of war between Tiny and "corporate son" Dieter Bock, Tiny would have been "lifted" in the fashion of a new Mr Speaker at the House of Commons, into a chair marked Life President on March 24. Lomho is now having to send out proxy cards asking shareholders to vote against the resolution proposing Tiny for president. Tiny, in turn, is issuing a circular to Lomho shareholders — and says they should reserve their vote until they have read his side of the story. It should be a gripping read. Do get to the agm early. The Barbican seats only 2,026, and management insists standing is not allowed.

## Braining them

If you are tired of those brainy kids at BZW, and want to knock them off their perch, your chance comes on May 22. Then Bacup, the national charity devoted to cancer sufferers, is staging its fourth Ultimate City Quiz and Challenge at The Brewery. To date, 35 teams have entered, with two specific purposes: to raise money for Bacup and, secondly, to deny BZW winning for the third year running. The event, sponsored by Midland Bank and Reuters, and hosted by Peter Snow, the BBC newscaster, aims to raise £30,000. There are still places left.



Sir Derek: space-saver

## RTZ exercise

RTZ, under the leadership of Sir Derek Birkin as chairman and Robert Wilson as chief executive, is a master at cost-cutting — even to the extent that an up-the-stairs auditorium at its St James's Square head office has recently been converted into a gymnasium to maximise space. The conversion led one insider to sigh: "Oh, Sir Derek. Not another treadmill for us."

## Sorry, dad

MERCURY Asset Management yesterday learnt the salutary lesson that you should always honour your parents. No sooner had the Financial Times appeared with a story under the heading "MAM urges its parent Warburg to seek partner" and which contained the quote: "What we want is a parent who is strong and financially solid. And Warburg isn't that any more", when all MAM's phones went dead. MAM folk swear it was all to do with Warburgs. Sorry, dad.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Whatever you read, the downtrend in the dollar is almost over and the mark and yen are riding for a fall

It is unwise to stand in the way of a speeding locomotive, but it is also unwise to jump on a bandwagon hurtling towards a cliff. The only safe response to the current worldwide lunacy in the foreign exchange markets is to keep out of the way. Those of a speculative disposition, however, may want to start getting ready to pick up some valuable financial wreckage from the accident that is waiting to happen in the foreign exchanges.

Regular readers of this column have probably had their fill of the reasons I have been presenting since December for my newfound belief that the 20-year downtrend in the dollar is almost over and that the mark and yen are riding for a fall. However, as a service to new readers I must briefly repeat them — and point out that, for three months, I have been consistently wrong.

There are four essential components to my thesis. Firstly, American companies are now far more competitive than their rivals in Germany and Japan, implying that the US trade deficit is about to turn. Secondly, American financial assets now offer better value than investments in Asia, Europe and emerging (or submerging) markets. Thirdly, American investors are about to wake up to this value and stop wasting their money on "global diversification". Fourthly, a weak dollar is no longer in America's national interest and will therefore be resisted by the G7.

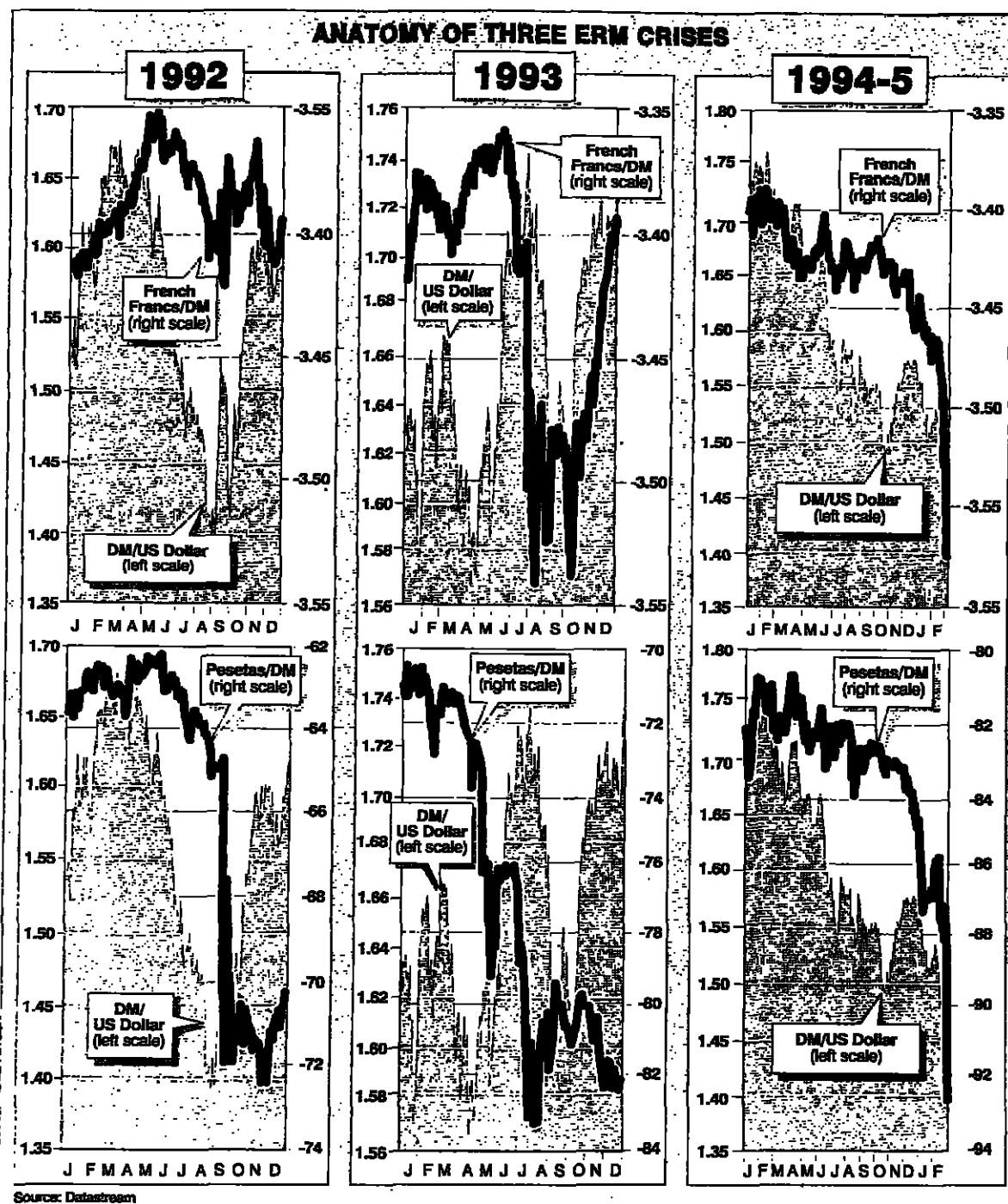
I presented these arguments on December 15, but contrary to my prediction, the dollar has not risen. Instead, it has fallen by a further 12 per cent against the mark. This suggests one of two interpretations — either I am all wrong or I am 12 per cent more right than I was three months ago.

I stick to the latter interpretation — which is probably what Nick Leeson said when he asked Barings for another \$100 million margin call. Fortunately, the *Times* costs 20p, and not \$27 billion, so I can afford to be stubborn and stick to a longer-term perspective, even in defiance of market trends. In terms of the economic fundamentals, a crucial new element has entered the global currency equation. This is the strong possibility of a final breakdown in the European exchange-rate mechanism. This will be a much more important long-term influence on the markets than anything to do with shifts in US monetary policy, defaults in Mexico or earthquakes in Japan.

Before turning to Europe, however, a few remarks about short-term market trends may be in order, since this is one of those times when speculative frenzy can make fundamental economics seem completely absurd. That the run on the mark and yen has now turned into a classic speculative bubble can hardly be disputed. Strong currencies are generally more prone to speculative overshooting than weak ones and therefore, as I said last week, it seems quite appropriate to describe current speculation in Germany and Japan as a "run". One of the main conditions for the last phase of a speculative bubble finally fell into place yesterday, when the Reuters foreign exchange service reported the following remark from an anonymous trader: "When you are told by your cab driver to go long marks and yen, you start to suspect that there is no end to this trend in sight."

In reality, of course, this trader was exactly wrong. Once you hear an investment recommendation from a cab driver, preferably seconded by a dentist, you know that a trend is just about over. There are few more reliable signs that a speculative bubble has been inflated to bursting-point.

Had floating currencies existed in Europe, they would have prevented Germany from exporting the unemployment created by an overvalued mark-dollar exchange rate. Had Germany been unable to share an overvalued currency with its European partners, the mark might have risen even further and faster against the



In spite of such encouraging signs, however, it is still probably too early to defy market sentiment and start buying dollars and selling every financial instrument qualified by the adjective "German". To confirm the end of the dollar's long bear market, may require one of two conditions. There could be a cover-story in *Time* or *Newsweek*, illustrated by a cartoon of a mangled dollar-sign and headlined "Mashed by the Mighty Mark". Alternatively, there might be a more fundamental signal — which brings us back to Europe.

The best possible indicator of reason returning to the foreign exchanges would be a complete breakup of the ERM and abandonment of the link between the French franc and the German mark. Until this happens, German industry will continue to be artificially insulated from the consequences of an overvalued currency by the self-mutilation of France and other ERM countries. By artificially supporting a franc fort that is even more overvalued than the mark, France has deliberately undermined the competitiveness of its industries and created mass unemployment.

The ERM has ensured that Germany's most important export to France and the rest of Europe has not been cars or machine tools, but unemployment.

Had floating currencies existed in Europe, they would have prevented Germany from exporting the unemployment created by an overvalued mark-dollar exchange rate. Had Germany been unable to share an overvalued currency with its European partners, the mark might have risen even further and faster against the

## Abandonment of the link between the franc and the mark would represent a return to reason

the dollar and pound, will add to competitive pressure on French industry and agriculture and further undermine the willingness of France to remain Germany's monetary satellite. More importantly, the devaluation of the peseta will offer a clear precedent or "road map", not only for speculators but also for French businessmen and savers sceptical about their Government's ability to defend the franc fort. For Spain's experience has demonstrated that the enlarged 15 per cent ERM bands, created after the ERM crisis in 1993, were indeed what the sceptics had insisted: a financially meaningless diplomatic fig leaf to disguise the effective abandonment of mutual sup-

port among the European finance ministries and central banks. Of course, the French Government will insist that its relations with Germany are in a different category from those of Spain.

The reality, however, is that the Bundesbank refused to support the franc when it crashed through its ERM bands in 1993, and is even less likely to support it today, whether the franc merely declines within its 15 per cent bands or threatens to fall out of the system altogether.

The fact is that the Bundesbank and the German public are weary of the constant crises in the ERM and are even more fed up with the strident demands from France, Spain and other Mediterranean countries for full monetary union. The German Parliament may have ratified the Maastricht treaty, but Germany's heart was never in this process. And Germany is even more sceptical today about EMU, as it concentrates on economic opportunities and political challenges in the east and the north.

It is this German scepticism, rather than the French presidential election, that constitutes the real threat to Maastricht and the French hope of moving towards EMU. If this is true, then it scarcely matters who is elected president in May. Without German support, the franc fort will prove unsustainable regardless.

Once the franc falls, the first market reaction may be a further "flight to safety" into the mark. But, without the ERM link to fall back on, a further revaluation of the mark would become unacceptable to German industry and probably even to the Bundesbank. Currencies around the world would finally move back towards the economic fundamentals.

For opponents of monetary union and bulls of the dollar, this third crisis in the ERM may be a case of third time lucky.

# Calm action avoids fallout from Barings

Neil Bennett meets Richard Hu, Singapore's Finance Minister

Sitting in his office with his sweeping view of Singapore harbour and the Indonesian islands, Richard Hu, the Singaporean Finance Minister, has good reason to be pleased with his past week's work.

He has successfully protected his country's financial markets from any fallout from the collapse of Barings and ensured that the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) has remained solvent and unshaken in spite of losing one of its most active members. All this while delivering his annual budget with its usual package of incentives and tax concessions.

His relaxed manner does not do justice to the very real threat that Singapore faced in the Barings collapse. Unless the affair had been efficiently contained, it could have led to a crisis of confidence on the Simex, setting back the young market's growth by years.

Ten days on, however, and Barings Futures has effectively been removed from Singapore's financial map. All its futures contracts have been closed, using the collateral it placed with the exchange, and it is now expected to be wound down and closed by its judicial manag-

passed a new Futures Trading Bill, which will require all dealers to be licensed every year. The timing of the Bill, says Dr Hu, is entirely coincidental, since it was first published last year. It was originally intended to protect the market from being misused by drug money launderers and its arrival now is fortuitous.

Singapore has a reputation for regulating its banks heavily. The Development Bank of Singapore is one of the most strongly capitalised banks in the world, yet it has been extremely reluctant to expand overseas, but Dr Hu says that the country's regulation is not excessive.

"Singapore-owned banks have always been conservative. A bank failure would be disastrous for us. We do not have the tradition of the City of London to fall back on. We are a vulnerable species and cannot afford to make a mistake when we are so small."

This last point is a cornerstone of government financial policy. There is no deposit protection scheme involved so regulatory capital requirements are 50 per cent higher than the internationally accepted minimum. Dr Hu and his colleagues take the future of Singapore's financial services market very seriously, which is why they have made the Barings affair a priority. Such

## A bank failure would be disastrous for Singapore

financial services are Singapore's third-largest industry, accounting for 14 per cent of GDP. As the whole of the surrounding region grows, Singapore's banks are well placed to take advantage.

Financial services are a priority industry as the country tries to find new areas of growth. Singapore is quite simply running out of space on its 20-mile island and basic industries consume a lot of land without generating much wealth. Financial services by comparison can earn billions of dollars from a tiny financial district.

With Singapore's growth rate running at an unsustainable 10 per cent it means that the country cannot do without the heavy continuing inflow of foreign funds that are transacting an increasing amount of business here.

When the directors of ING arrive to start merging Barings' operations into their own they are therefore likely to receive a warm welcome from Dr Hu.



Hu: handled crisis

While Dr Hu is undeniably displeased that Barings' regulators failed to correct the lack of internal controls in the bank, he is pragmatic about the Bank of England's failure to construct a rescue package. "You cannot expect every bank to be rescued. If you have very poor management any bank can fail. Rescue is a difficult question for any regulator because you always have the question of moral hazard for other institutions."

Now, however, the Singaporean Government has

## BUSINESS LETTER

### Shrink the 'four times salary' ruling to help revolutionise boardroom share options

From Mr James Kane

Sir, Pennington (February 24) is unduly harsh on the share option. The principle behind share options is one that most people would support. It is the practice that is deficient, and has produced the unfair rewards so often publicised in the past. Three simple changes would revolutionise the position:

1. The "four times rule" (which is an Inland Revenue requirement) should be changed so that no-one can receive options worth more than, say, twice basic salary during any period of 12 months. This would put a stop to "excessive" gains arising from lucky share price timing on large numbers of options.

2. Any options granted over an

initial value of, say, £100,000 should have to be part-paid. At least 25 per cent of the grant price would be paid at the time of grant. This change would introduce the risk of losing money into what has previously been a one-way bet (your words).

3. The maximum holding of options should be increased from four times total remuneration to, say, eight times salary. This would allow more regular grants, but not put executives under pressure to cash in options so as to receive more (as it appears Mick Newmarch did). Such a change would also improve employee retention by spreading the period of gain.

It would be a pity to lose the benefits of simplicity inherent in the relationship of the

option to the market price of the shares. Some of the schemes recently introduced are too complicated to be easily understood (or quantified) by shareholders, or participants. That will present its own problems later.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES KANE,  
Greenly's,  
39, Thames Street,  
Windsor, Berks.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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Profits double at Bluebird Toys: Torquil Norman, left, Mighty Max and Chris Burgin, chief executive

## Standard starts Far East review

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE future of Standard Chartered's equities business in the Far East is in doubt after running up losses in 1994.

The bank has begun a review of its investment banking operations, trying to find ways of cutting the high fixed costs of the business.

Malcolm Williamson, Standard Chartered's chief executive, said the equities business was most likely to be affected as it is not "as central to our core as the debt side". He said that core operations were in the capital and debt markets, as the central strength of the bank was in trade finance.

The review has been started by John McFarlane, head of the investment banking. It appears likely that equities will be scaled back, either through closure or sale to a bank that is trying to build up its equities business in the region. Meanwhile, yesterday, Mr Williamson unveiled a 27 per cent

increase in profits at Standard Chartered to £510 million in 1994. Investment banking made a loss of £21 million.

Earnings per share were up 36 per cent to 32.7p and the annual dividend has been increased by 33 per cent to 8p, with the final payment of 5.75p due on June 2. The charge for bad debts fell from £233 million to £122 million.

Standard Chartered employs 500 people in its equities operations, mainly in Hong Kong and Asia Pacific. Peter Wood, finance director, said the main reasons for the investment banking losses were high fixed costs and much lower volumes than in 1993.

The bank has been looking at ways of reducing the number of sites from which the business operates, and of centralising back office functions in regional hubs.

Commercial banking prof-

its were more than doubled to £316 million after lower bad debts. Treasury profits fell from £159 million to £99 million in "a difficult year for the industry", said Mr Williamson.

Geographically, Hong Kong contributed 44 per cent of trading profits, down from 61 per cent the previous year. Trading profits in the UK were £95 million in spite of a fall in treasury and investment banking earnings, helped by lower bad debts.

Patrick Gillam, the chairman, said the bank planned to concentrate on personal and private banking, institutional banking, custody services, corporate banking, and treasury and investment banking.

He said the bank would grow by expanding its existing operations in countries whose economies are growing, and through acquisition, though he had nothing particular in mind.

## Mighty Max performs mighty well

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE continuing appeal of Polly Pocket and Mighty Max helped double profits at Bluebird Toys, the toy manufacturer and distributor, last year. Pre-tax profits jumped to £19.7 million from £9.8 million in 1994 on sales up 44 per cent to £99.4 million.

Torquil Norman, chairman, said 1994 had been an exceptional year with strong demand at home and abroad. Overseas sales rose 55 per cent and now account for almost two thirds of total turnover. UK sales were up by 30 per cent in spite of a flat market.

Worldwide sales of Polly Pocket, the group's leading brand, were boosted by the introduction of Polly's Tiny World, a range of miniature doll's houses. Mighty Max also made progress, but faces increasing competition from Mighty Morfin Power Rangers, the latest toy fad.

A final dividend of 6p (4p) brings the total payout to 8p (4p) and will be paid to shareholders on May 24.



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### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Half year to 31st December 1994

	1993	1994	
Profit before tax	£38.6m	£50.8m	+32%
Earnings per ordinary share	6.4p	8.5p	+33%
Dividend per ordinary share	1.95p	2.25p	+15%

Another excellent result. And not only are we improving the quality of our performance, we're continuing to recruit valuable new players into the team.

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# COMMERCIAL UNION

## COMMERCIAL UNION

12 MONTHS' RESULTS

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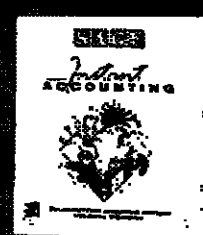
- Record pre-tax operating profit from continuing activities of £413m (1993 £218m).
- Full year dividend increased by 8% to 26.40p (1993 24.52p).
- Life profits increase to £154m (1993 £121m).
- Improved general insurance results of £347m (1993 £187m).
- Acquisition of Groupe Victoire, a leading French insurer.

	12 months 1994 Unaudited	12 months 1993 Restated
Total premium income	£6,762m	£5,970m
Operating profit before taxation and loss on termination of activities	£413m	£218m
Operating profit after taxation and loss on termination of activities (note 1)	£311m	£188m
Profit attributable to shareholders (note 2)	£349m	£321m
Operating profit per share (note 3)	49.9p	31.0p
Dividend per share (note 3)	26.40p	24.52p
Shareholders' funds (note 4)	£3,173m	£3,553m

#### Notes:

- A loss of £11m was incurred in terminating unprofitable activities (1993 £7m).
- Profit attributable to shareholders includes realised investment gains after taxation of £38m (1993 £133m).
- The 1993 dividend and operating profit per share have been adjusted for the effect of the 1994 rights issue.
- The 1993 shareholders' funds have been restated to include a value of the in-force life business.

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## ACCOUNTANCY

## Benefits of internal auditors

David Brilliant outlines the need for sound control consciousness

The current debate in relation to the latest corporate disaster. Barings, brings home once again the need for sound control consciousness among directors and senior management of all businesses with a duty to shareholders.

We have another persuasive case for adopting the principles of the Cadbury Committee on Corporate Governance and confirmation of the need for an independent control expert and review function in the internal auditor.

A professionally qualified auditor and team would ensure business risks and risks of doing business are properly understood; that control objectives are established and a sound internal control framework is in place throughout, balancing the cost of control against protection from unnecessary risks and reducing the possibility of fraud.

This latest example of huge loss from a failure of basic controls appears to demonstrate the internal audit function of Barings was performing its role both in identifying the issues and reporting them to the appropriate level. The failure is that management did not act appropriately or quickly to correct the weak-

nesses in control and re-establish effective management supervision and did not ensure the relevant management information in regard to risk exposure and trading results were received from reliable independent sources.

The lesson to be learned is that a board of directors should be properly constituted with an appropriate number of experienced and competent non-executive directors, who should form the audit committee. This should receive the internal auditors' reports and ensure they are acted on in a specified time.

Audit committees should also be satisfied that the internal auditing function is sufficiently resourced and independent, with authority to perform its role and provide the services of control expert and assessor of the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls throughout the year.

Good control and the requisite framework to ensure its continued adequacy and effectiveness is a cost of doing business like any other expense and needs to be of a quality appropriate to the business balanced with the cost benefit. At present, some directors fail to recognise the risks let alone the need for



David Brilliant says Barings's auditors acted correctly

appropriate controls — and may never — until it is too late.

There are the golden rules: Identify and quantify primary risks inherent in the business. Designed to ensure business is carried out in a properly authorised manner, assures retention of assets and profits and maintains accurate accounting records and management information reports.

Only effective internal audit has the independence, author-

ity and resources to carry out its role of evaluating adequacy and effectiveness of, as well as being a control consultant to management; the expert in control.

Properly designed controls to meet the risk objective that are practicable in implementation and operation. Good control culture is dependent on clear commitment from the directors down, both to the need for, and reliance on, a strong

control environment. Dependent on control-conscious attitude of employees exercising controls — in turn dependent on positive "tone from the top." That directors and management are committed to a good control environment, that it is important and will be rewarded. Management takes responsibility for control and demonstrates it is "owned by management".

Controls are only as good as the people in whom they are vested — relies on separation of transaction-recording from asset-movement or risk-taking, in turn independent of checks and balances or reconciliation processes (i.e. independent checks).

Overlaying the control framework is effective management review and supervision, which provides direction, oversight and source of authority to those operating controls as well as counsel when problems are identified.

Healthy scepticism and independence of thought is essential if we are to rely on the control responsibility vested in all employees. Internal auditing is responsible for ensuring controls are appropriate to the risks and needs of the business, that they may be relied on and operate effectively.

The author is managing director of the auditing division of Chemical Bank and president of the Institute of Internal Auditors in the UK

## Reworking the elitist route to the top

STUDENT numbers are the key to the future health of any accountancy body. That is why the English ICA has produced its remarkable initiative to encourage the training of its students in smaller firms — and why it has dropped its long-trumpeted insistence that it should impose an all-graduate-entry prerequisite.

Until about 25 years ago, the traditional way into the English ICA's ranks was via the smaller firms and with a background of O or A levels. But as accountancy became the fastest growing and most sought-after profession, it became possible to go for a graduate-only entry. The English ICA chose the elitist route. Now, as student numbers plummet, that is being reversed. And some of the English ICA's old rivals are finding it hard not to grow about it. It is also pointing the way to an even greater fragmentation of the English ICA's membership.

In many ways, it is back to basics. In the past, there was a much greater prospect of area for negotiation between the student and the employer. The institute says that quality must not suffer. But the other accounting bodies, particularly the certified accountants, who have had to suffer the English ICA's elitist line, are now smiling quietly. They even managed a practical joke last week. Noticing the much-hyped English ICA advertising campaign had concentrated on warning the public about using unqualified accountants, the Association of Certified Accountants dusted down one of its most persistent campaigns. "ACCA calls for a register of qualified accountants", read the press release. A register would provide exactly the same protection from unqualified accountants that the English ICA's poster campaign seems to urge. But as the certified accountants know, the English ICA has always abhorred such an idea. Getting together with those that it sees as the hoi-polloi is not the English ICA's idea of protecting the public.

The new campaign to encourage smaller firms to train students again may not work, but it accentuates the split in the English ICA's auditing membership. Tomorrow, KPMG's partners decide whether to incorporate. Such an organisation would be further away than ever from fellow members in rural England training bright young people with A levels.

smaller firms, by and large, stopped training students for the English ICA exams.

Other bodies stepped into the breach. If they trained anyone at all, the smaller firms took to training certified accountants, for whom lengthy weeks of study leave was not mandatory, and accounting technicians.

The English ICA, as long as student intakes were buoyant, could ignore this. But numbers have almost halved in recent years. And, even if an unexpected boom does occur, no one is predicting an equivalent boom in students. The large firms are leaner now. This is why members of the institute received a placatory letter last week. It said: "Today our institute is launching a major initiative to encourage smaller firms to train chartered accountant students." It went on to say that, "from today, students will only require two A levels as a minimum before entering into a training contract; students' paid study leave will be discretionary; and the payment of tuition and examination fees will also be an area for negotiation between the student and the employer."

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ROBERT BRUCE

## On the ball at Murrayfield

THE English ICA may have launched a much-hyped poster campaign with the slogan "It's easier to sleep with a chartered accountant". But the other bodies are not far behind — though their methods may differ. The Scots ICA launched a poster campaign last week-end and didn't tell anyone. But Welsh accountants, in particular, will have noticed. As the Scots rugby forwards drove in the second try in the Scotland-Wales international

at Murrayfield last Saturday, the advertising hoardings behind bore the Scots ICA's CA logo and trumpeted "The Mark of Quality".

## Fraud chasing

MEANWHILE, Scots lawyers were feeling sore at KPMG, the accountancy group. Last week, the firm launched its Fraud Barometer, which tracks the incidence of major fraud. This showed that law-

yers and financial advisers accounted for the majority of fraud in Scotland. The Scotsman promptly ran a leader column saying that "the stereotypical image of lawyers as charlatans who would boil their grannies down for glue if given the chance is apparently borne out by KPMG's fraud barometer". What the locals would call "a stushie" ensued, with the Law Society of Scotland particularly indignant. And who audits the Law Soci-

ety you might ask? KPMG, of course.

## All that jazz

THE public-sector accountancy body CIPFA has always been noted for its good iconoclastic ways. Last week's annual dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall in the City not only had no speeches, but also had a group of students from Guildhall School of Music playing jazz during the meal.

It has to be the only time that the distinguished guests on the top table have entered to the strains of a bebop number.

A TRENCHANT judgment of the Barings crash comes from the chairman of one of Britain's largest financial services companies. "In my young days", he said, "if someone at an overseas branch was remitting enormous and unlikely profits, there was only one course of action. Sack him. He was bound to be up to no good."

ROBERT BRUCE

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Candidates must have solid experience of evaluating credit ratings with skills in negotiating and obtaining customer financing from external sources such as banks and finance companies. Credit control and enforcement experience is a distinct advantage.

A mature self assured approach and the ability to work independently are vital. These qualities coupled with strength of character and diplomacy will ensure that the successful candidate can perform in this challenging environment.

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### Guildford

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Senior Manager Grade 12  
Salary circa £31,000 p.a.

The Three Southern Colleges of Healthcare in South Thames (West) are looking for a Finance Manager to manage the combined budget and accounts. It is planned to integrate with the University of Surrey on or about 1 August 1995, and this post would then transfer into the University.

We are looking for a qualified accountant (ACA preferred) with experience of managing a small team of staff.

Applicants should be self-starters with good communication skills. Experience of working within public sector finance is desirable but not essential.

If you would like to pay an informal visit please telephone John Foster on 01483 302239.

For further details and an application package please contact the: Personnel Manager, Frances Harrison College of Healthcare, St Lukes Hospital, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3NT. Telephone 01483 571122 ext 2254 or 2252.

Closing Date: 16 March 1995  
The College operates a Non-Smoking Policy  
An Equal Opportunity Employer



## Policy Officer - Financial and European policy

Personal • Investment • Authority

Salary £ negotiable  
(plus non-contributory pension)

The Personal Investment Authority Limited (PIA) is the new self-regulating organisation (SRO), established under the Financial Services Act 1986, for the retail financial sector. It expects to have a membership of around 5,000 firms, including life insurance companies, unit trust managers, banks and independent financial advisers.

The Authority is seeking to recruit a policy officer to work within an important new department dealing with financial and European policy. This policy officer will assist in the development and implementation of policy relating to all financial matters concerning PIA's membership, including capital adequacy requirements, financial reporting and issues involving client money and safe custody. He/she will also be involved in policy work relating to developments in European legislation or elsewhere in the international community which have relevance for PIA's sphere of activity.

The post will involve working closely with other regulators which cover all aspects of the financial services industry, as well as contact with overseas bodies.

The policy officer will need to demonstrate aptitude to deal with complex issues, often working on his or her own initiative. He/she will require a high level of communication and analytical skills and is likely to have been educated to degree level with at least two years relevant experience within financial services or a related environment. The successful candidate will have understanding and experience of the current system of financial regulation. Familiarity with issues arising in European legislation would be beneficial.

Closing date Friday 24 March 1995

Applicants should write in confidence stating salary expectations, enclosing a full CV to the Recruitment Coordinator (FEP), Personal Investment Authority Limited, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AZ

## Accountancy Personnel



## HOUSE OF FRASER

### Retail Finance Managers

House of Fraser, one of the most successful and prestigious names in Department Store retailing, is seeking forward looking and innovative managers to fulfill an ongoing requirement for Retail Finance Managers with the senior management teams within a number of stores.

With a portfolio of stores varying in size, from 12k sq. ft. to over 350k sq. ft., the level of responsibility and experience required will vary according to size, however the style of management remains the same. We require professionals eager to take full accountability in a changing environment where the highest standards of customer service, management and visual merchandising apply.

The Retail Finance Manager will report to the Store Manager and will be a key member of the management team with special responsibility for the finance and administration functions within the store.

Suitable applicants will be educated to 'A' level or degree standard and will be able to demonstrate the combination of proven man-management and communication skills with the commercial acumen necessary to grow with the business and make a strategic contribution to our success.



If you meet the above requirements and feel ready for the challenge on offer please contact Accountancy Personnel, 5-6 Glen House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5AG. Alternatively for more information on these posts, please telephone (0171) 828 7555.

Hays

### FINANCE DIRECTOR

An oil and gas contracting company based in the United Kingdom but part of a major international contracting group seeks to recruit a finance director to contribute to its overall business strategy, both financial and otherwise.

The ideal candidate will have extensive experience of the oil and gas industry, principally in the areas of construction and fabrication and will be a graduate with a background in engineering. A sound knowledge of Latin American and UK accounting principles is essential, as is fluency, both oral and written, in Portuguese, Spanish and English.

The position will involve multi-currency cash management and the structuring of project and trade finance. It will also be important constantly to develop relationships with the financial markets and multilateral developing agencies with the aim of providing funding for projects in developing countries. The successful candidate will be based in the United Kingdom but will be required to travel overseas on business.

Applications including a comprehensive C.V. should be sent to Box No 4399, Times Newspapers, PO Box, 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA.

### Divisional Financial Controller

London NW1

Salary c£26k + Car

Media Services Group requires a divisional Financial Controller for its rapidly growing Media & Communications division.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the accounting function and for providing strategic, financial and management information to the individual businesses. He/She must have the confidence and ability to assess, recommend and implement changes to existing reporting structures and procedures.

We are seeking a person who will have an active management involvement in running the business.

Candidates should be aged 25-30, recently qualified accountants with experience of the requirements for accounting within a small company environment. A lively, outgoing and confident personality is as important as technical accounting knowledge.

This is a newly created role which provides the successful candidate with an opportunity to develop both within the division and elsewhere in the Group.

Interested candidates should write stating the reasons they feel they are suitable for the position and enclosing a comprehensive CV to Box No 4192.



## Recovery after roller-coaster day

1984 YR		P-22				1984 YR		P-22		1984 YR		P-22	
YR	Low	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Low	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	
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11	Locker (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
12	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
13	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
14	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
15	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
16	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
17	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
18	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
19	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
20	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
21	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
22	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
23	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
24	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
25	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
26	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
27	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
28	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
29	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1
30	Locke (T)	12	42	10	219	172	Bushnell	174	1	28	88	54	Mormon Ent	59	1	0.8	306	133	Boyd's Trv	262	2	1	1	1

[illegible]

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232	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
233	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
234	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
235	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
236	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
237	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
238	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
239	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
240	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
241	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
242	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
243	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
244	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
245	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
246	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
247	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
248	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
249	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
250	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
251	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
252	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
253	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
254	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
255	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
256	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
257	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
258	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
259	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
260	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
261	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
262	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
263	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
264	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
265	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
266	103	Deen	10	1	8.6	299	147	Hogg	158	1	81	58
267	103	Deen	10	1								

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

**WE HAVE WELDED A PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE STEEL INDUSTRY**



191	Helicon	189	- 3	61	12.6
192	Helicon	25	0	0	0
193	Hi Gro	35	0	0	0
194	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
195	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
196	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
197	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
198	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
199	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
200	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
201	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
202	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
203	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
204	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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210	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
211	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
212	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
213	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
214	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
215	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
216	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
217	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
218	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
219	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
220	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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222	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
223	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
224	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
225	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
226	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
227	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
228	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
229	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
230	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
231	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
232	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
233	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
234	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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255	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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266	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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268	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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271	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
272	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
273	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
274	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
275	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
276	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
277	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
278	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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282	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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284	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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292	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
293	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
294	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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317	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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334	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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368	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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370	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
371	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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379	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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386	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
387	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
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389	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
390	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
391	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
392	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
393	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
394	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
395	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
396	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
397	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
398	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
399	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
400	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
401	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
402	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
403	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
404	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
405	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
406	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
407	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
408	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
409	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
410	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
411	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
412	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
413	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
414	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
415	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
416	Linco Prod	35	0	0	0
417	Linco Prod	35	0</		

[illegible]

HEALTHCARE								
380	Aetna	420				760	1075	1075
370	Amgen	810	-7	51	17.9	770	1107	1107
400	Amgen	810				780	1107	1107
410	Amgen	810				790	1107	1107
420	Amgen	810				800	1107	1107
430	Amgen	810				810	1107	1107
440	Amgen	810				820	1107	1107
450	Amgen	810				830	1107	1107
460	Amgen	810				840	1107	1107
470	Amgen	810				850	1107	1107
480	Amgen	810				860	1107	1107
490	Amgen	810				870	1107	1107
500	Amgen	810				880	1107	1107
510	Amgen	810				890	1107	1107
520	Amgen	810				900	1107	1107
530	Amgen	810				910	1107	1107
540	Amgen	810				920	1107	1107
550	Amgen	810				930	1107	1107
560	Amgen	810				940	1107	1107
570	Amgen	810				950	1107	1107
580	Amgen	810				960	1107	1107
590	Amgen	810				970	1107	1107
600	Amgen	810				980	1107	1107
610	Amgen	810				990	1107	1107
620	Amgen	810				1000	1107	1107
630	Amgen	810				1010	1107	1107
640	Amgen	810				1020	1107	1107
650	Amgen	810				1030	1107	1107
660	Amgen	810				1040	1107	1107
670	Amgen	810				1050	1107	1107
680	Amgen	810				1060	1107	1107
690	Amgen	810				1070	1107	1107
700	Amgen	810				1080	1107	1107
710	Amgen	810				1090	1107	1107
720	Amgen	810				1100	1107	1107
730	Amgen	810				1110	1107	1107
740	Amgen	810				1120	1107	1107
750	Amgen	810				1130	1107	1107
760	Amgen	810				1140	1107	1107
770	Amgen	810				1150	1107	1107
780	Amgen	810				1160	1107	1107
790	Amgen	810				1170	1107	1107
800	Amgen	810				1180	1107	1107
810	Amgen	810				1190	1107	1107
820	Amgen	810				1200	1107	1107
830	Amgen	810				1210	1107	1107
840	Amgen	810				1220	1107	1107
850	Amgen	810				1230	1107	1107
860	Amgen	810				1240	1107	1107
870	Amgen	810				1250	1107	1107
880	Amgen	810				1260	1107	1107
890	Amgen	810				1270	1107	1107
900	Amgen	810				1280	1107	1107
910	Amgen	810				1290	1107	1107
920	Amgen	810				1300	1107	1107
930	Amgen	810				1310	1107	1107
940	Amgen	810				1320	1107	1107

300	131	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
301	132	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
302	133	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
303	134	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
304	135	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
305	136	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
306	137	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
307	138	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
308	139	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
309	140	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
310	141	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
311	142	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
312	143	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
313	144	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
314	145	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
315	146	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
316	147	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
317	148	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
318	149	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
319	150	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
320	151	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
321	152	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
322	153	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
323	154	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
324	155	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
325	156	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
326	157	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
327	158	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
328	159	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
329	160	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
330	161	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	19
331	162	Port-Hopert	50	5	12	15.6	199	82	Costa Verdes	167	6	6.1	1

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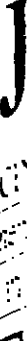
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5971	Alaska	1251	1	3.4	1251	100%	1175, 2007-04	111%	-	Na	10.31	8.96	150%	131%	Trans II, 2-1/2, 2016	115%	-	Na	3.79
2580	American Falls	1251	1	2.8	89%	100%	Ford 27-6, 1999-04	111%	-	Na	4.79	7.07	165%	139%	Trans II, 2-1/2, 2020	115%	-	Na	3.61
3971	Anglo II 0 seat	399	0	2.4	-	100%	Cum 97-04	100%	-	Na	9.13	9.94	129%	100%	Trans II, 2-1/2, 2024	105%	-	Na	3.80
116	Anglo-Gulfair SH	121	2	...	...	100%	Trans 04-0, 2004	87%	-	Na	7.75	9.73	129%	100%	Trans II, 2-1/2, 2020	105%	-	Na	3.83

OIL & GAS		
36 1/2	34 1/2 Am Energy	35 1/2 -
53	35 Arcon Int	41



# Join L

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## T

THE MOVIE THAT CELEBRATES... IS ITSELF ACCLAIMED


### "A MASTERPIECE"

I really thought the cinema shape and form had nothing to do with me - I was wrong."

AL PACINO, *Scarface*

### "A SCANDALOUSLY LITTING PIECE OF FILM"

ALAN PARKS, *Director*



## PULP FICTION

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**THEATRE page 36**  
Commanding Broadway  
star Judd Hirsch brings  
Conversations With My  
Father to the West End

# ARTS

**MUSEUMS page 37**

Architecture takes off  
into the 21st century in  
two dazzling new  
galleries in Holland



## Join Dottie for a moving picture

**CINEMA: Geoff Brown applauds as men make passes at a woman in glasses in Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle**

The title was to have been *Mrs Parker and the Round Table*. Then the men in suits became nervous. Maybe audiences would expect Lancelot, Guinevere and the Holy Grail, not Dorothy Parker. Alexander Woolcott and bathtub gin. So a substitute sobriquet was dug up from history, and we are now reviewing *Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle*.

The incident shows one thing. Parker apart, the sophisticates who launched a thousand quips as they munched and drank at the Hotel Algonquin's Round Table in New York have not stayed celebrities 70 years on. But they and their age still exert a spell, and it was natural that Alan Rudolph should succumb. Seven years ago, he directed *The Moderns*, about expatriate Americans in the Paris of the 1920s. This is a companion piece, flawed but lovely, infinitely witty, and one with an aching heart.

For the wit and the heart one must thank Mrs Parker, or at least the fractured image that the film presents. We are not told the whole story: where is the woman who turned sharply to the left, and bequeathed her estate to Martin Luther King Jr? But Rudolph and his gifted star Jennifer Jason Leigh capture all the pain behind the wisecracks, the acid poems, the inhibiting, the frantic sex.

In the film's eyes, her most subtle, because it was unacknowledged, relationship was with Robert Benchley, the droll humorist so beautifully played by Campbell Scott. This might be more fiction than fact, but their tender regard for each other strengthens the film's sense of lives gone astray, of missed chances.

Rudolph's characters, whatever their pedigree, are usually searching for love. This trait, plus the script's mosaic structure, the gliding camera and the melancholy jazz music of Mark Isham, ensures that *Mrs Parker* is no conventional movie biography.

But aspects of the genre still poke through. Names are dropped noisily: look, there's Scott Fitzgerald, and that must be Harpo Marx, chasing ladies on a Long Island lawn. Following tradition, the script piles on the heroine's agony: the later Parker (seen in harsh black-and-white) is only glimpsed as an old lush with a dog.

Imperfect though it may be, the portrait still has resonance. Leigh gives a powerful, multi-layered performance: she never runs from Parker's contradictions, and makes the pain hurt. The mannered drawl

is overdone, but a re-jigged soundtrack has hugely improved her audibility since the film's Cannes debut last year. As the script contains most of Parker's best one-liners, you scarcely want to sit with ears cupped, shouting "Eh?"

At the beginning of *Disclosure*, Michael Douglas engages in man chat, eyes female legs ascending the stairs, and gives his secretary's behind a playful whack: par for the course in his male-dominated computer corporation, on the brink of a profitable merger.

But when Douglas meets Demi Moore, an old flame and his new division vice-president, the boot shifts to the other foot. Squeezed into a provocative black dress, she

### Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle

Curzon Mayfair, 15, 123 mins  
Moody and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker

### Disclosure

Warner West End  
18, 128 mins  
Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore

### Nell

Odeon West End, 12, 114 mins  
Jodie Foster gears up for an Oscar

### The Silences of the Palace

ICA Cinema, 127 mins  
Brave and compelling Tunisian film

### I Love a Man in Uniform

Metro, 18, 97 mins  
Cop show actor loses grip on reality

hurls herself at him, a sexual tornado, ripping off clothes, scratching his chest. Douglas says no, not once but 31 times. The next day, the boot is shifted again: the vengeful Moore now accuses Douglas of sexual harassment. Lawyers are summoned, and the merger threatens to unravel.

With a plot like that, no wonder the film rights to Michael Crichton's novel were snapped up long before publication. But, despite the weight of the seduction scene, and the casting of stars not known for their cloistered lives, sex never rules the roost alone. Crichton, as always, is fascinated by technology, and the script comes stuffed with e-mail messages and the latest virtu-



"Jennifer Jason Leigh never runs from Parker's contradictions, and makes the pain hurt" in *Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle*

al reality games. It is fascinating to imagine what Milos Forman, the original director, might have made of this. Barry Levinson, his eventual replacement, gives the material an impersonal big-budget polish: he needed a commercial hit following two quirky flops, *Toys* and *Jimmy Hollywood*. But he never brings the script's two worlds, sex and technology, into a natural embrace. Indeed, the more you ponder its elements, the more the film disintegrates.

Stare hard and the characters — Moore's especially — lose credibility. Time is wasted chasing red herrings. And although he has battled predatory women before, it is hard to believe Douglas would ever say no 31 times. The solution, obviously, is not to ponder at all. Pocket your brain. Go with the flow, and enjoy what you can of a corporate business melodrama decked with eye-catching trappings.

Oscar voters love to see actors acting, expressing mental or physical handicaps. Jodie Foster, there-

fore, must be polishing her acceptance speech for her role in *Nell*. Reared in isolation in North Carolina's backwoods, and left alone on her mother's death, she speaks a private, Bible-drenched language of slurred words and dropped consonants. Brought face to face with Liam Neeson, a local doctor, she flaps like a frightened bird. Time brings mutual understanding, and the wild child soon tells civilisation a thing or two about human values.

Foster and Neeson give strong, committed performances; and important lessons about emotional vulnerability snake through William Nicholson's script (based on Mark Handley's play). But these powerful ingredients become diluted. Nature's wonders are thrust in our faces; serious thoughts emerge sounding trite. Michael Apted directs with sympathy, but as the slick plot-turns mount no amount of cinematic money can make *Nell* easy to swallow.

Better by far to sink yourself into *The Silences of the Palace*. A

compelling debut film by Moudida Tlatli, born in Tunisia and trained in Paris. For her story she returns to the declining days of Tunisia's last royal family, seen through the eyes of a servant girl with the courage to resist her bondage.

The pace, at first, may seem slow: Tlatli spends much time absorbing the atmosphere in the palace kitchens as the staff prepare food, and the faded splendours of the private quarters where the princes take their pleasures. But the film soon draws us into its world, and the plight of the heroine Alia (persuasively played as an adolescent by Hend Sabri), who suspects her father is the ruling Bey himself.

"You have a beautiful voice," she is told. "It's a pity it's locked up inside." In time Alia uses her musical gifts to preserve some independence. But a happy private life eludes her; and around her lie the silent women, the princes' playthings, subject to rape and abortion.

Tlatli directs with unforced eloquence; and the rage within the

film at women's role in Islamic society appears all the more powerful for being so contained.

Sirens wait. The streets are wet, soaked with blue light. The dialogue is terse: "Don't push your luck, scumbag." Luckily, all of *I Love a Man in Uniform* is not like this: that style is reserved for the crass television show, *Crime Wave*, in which the hero, a meticulous bank clerk and part-time actor, finds a role as an ass-busting cop.

More than a role: an identity. He takes his uniform home. Out on the streets in black leather, he finds the power life otherwise denies him. Ahead lies mental instability, considerable bloodshed and not much of an ending. But on the way, Canadian writer-director David Wellington plays clever games with our fascination with TV violence, and sneaks plenty of dark humour into the edgy scenes. Stage actor Tom McCamus is riveting as the bank clerk led off the rails by his lust for order. No masterpiece, this, but a striking film with a tart disposition and a mind of its own.

**CONCERT**

## Musical chairs

AN EARLY String Quartet by Sibelius, written in his last year as a student, was presumably the intended focus of interest for a programme presented by the UK Sibelius Society. Announced as a UK premiere, it was diligently commended to our attention by the youthful Kreutzer Quartet.

They sit with the cello between the second violin and viola instead of outside both, thereby masking some of the infilling between high and low registers, but the first and second violins are sufficiently ver-

Kreutzer Quartet  
Wigmore Hall

satile to exchange places for the second part of the programme. Limpid violin playing was indeed a feature in Sibelius, whose *A Minor Quartet* of 1899 benefited from a degree of toughness in ensemble to wean it away from its reminiscences of Grieg and Dvořák, even if it did threaten to canter into insignificance before the end of the last movement.

Taut ensemble playing was again a strong element in the fourth of the six quartets so far by David Matthews. 52 this year, who has been described elsewhere as a "natural" quartet composer and has endowed the form with a variety of skilled invention.

Quartet No 4, a 30-minute work of substance like the Sibelius, is perhaps his most expansive in the series, owing an allegiance to classical models in its four movements and warm tonality.

From a genial beginning, to which pizzicato phrases gave a sharper edge, the Kreutzer players steadily exposed the manifold felicities of Matthews's string writing, the muted instruments blending a touchingly withdrawn quality to the meditative slow movement, until a finely judged *accelerando* recalled all the earlier ideas to be "sped through as if in a dream", as the composer's programme-note put it. It was a lovely passage, followed by a vigorously dramatic finale.

After two such major works there was still nearly another hour of music to come as the players returned, with the violins changed about, for Beethoven at his most demanding in the C sharp minor Quartet, Op 131. Their probing of its mysteries was evidently thoughtfully prepared, and executed with a rhythmic poise and explicit spirit that testified to these musicians' developing maturity.

NOEL GOODWIN

**7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS**  
**BEST PICTURE**  
**9 BAFTA NOMINATIONS • BEST FILM**

**THE MOVIE THAT CELEBRATES MOVIES**  
**...IS ITSELF ACCLAIMED**

### "A MASTERPIECE"

*I really thought the cinema in every shape and form had nothing left to show me - I was wrong.*  
Julia Durrill, *Sunday Times*

**"A SCINTILLATING  
PIECE  
OF FILM  
MAKING!"**  
Philip Thomas, *Empire*

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BARBARA HEISBERG • VERA ALABOVA • JESSIE SPENCE • JESSICA ABRAHAM • RENEE VALLON • BRUCE WILLIS

**NOW SHOWING**  
AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## Costello takes true aim at Purcell

The first of the Purcell Room's concerts of works inspired by its namesake reveals an unlikely hero

We had to wait until the end of course, for Elvis Costello. He and 11 other musicians had been commissioned by the South Bank Centre to create works inspired by Purcell's viol *Fantasies*.

In the first of two concerts at the Purcell Room which interleave these new works with Purcell's own, most of the six composers showed themselves to be either deaf to that inspiration or dumb in their attempts to respond to it.

Costello describes himself as a new convert to the notated form. But his piece, entitled *Put Away Forbidden Placings* and scored for countertenor (Michael Chance) and four violas (members of Fretwork), showed a disarmingly sensitive and confident command of both voice and viol.

He had done his homework, too, and his nostalgic echoes of Purcell echoing Dowland and affectionately assimilated into a compact, bluesy, Janus-faced lovesong.

Nostalgia was very much the order of the day. Perhaps this was deliberately so, for Purcell himself was writing in an already outdated medium; but perhaps, one began to suspect, for want of any other response.

Double-bass player Barry Guy's *Buzz* for five viols was clearly the work of a practitioner, and one of the great original crossovers at that. Exploiting every technical possibility of the viol (and a few

near-impossibilities, Charles Mingus-style, as well), this was a winning little exercise in the good old avant-garde.

It seemed genuinely excited by its medium and by the challenge of the exercise, which is more than could be said for Paul Ruders's earnestly sweet-sour *Second Set of Changes* on an old Danish folk tune, or Alessandro Solbiati's effortful (and conducted) *Nameless Pod*, or even John Woolrich's calculatedly arid and fragmented *Fantasia*.

*Fantasia*, and the searching, daring invention of a Purcell was just what these pieces lacked. Elena Firsova's *Phantom* showed a glimmer of those qualities in what was an honestly written, nicely whimsical fusion of a brief Arioso idea with a sweet, small cadence of Purcell's own.

Benedict Mason chose to create a pretentious "installation", about "the sound of sound": five players sitting motionless with their backs to the audience, and five minutes' worth of quiet synthesized resonance that we were instructed to take seriously.

Mason obviously takes himself extremely seriously, as was painfully evident in yet another half hour of round-table prattle which preceded the concert — most of it either inarticulate, incomprehensible or totally inaudible.

HILARY FINCH

**4 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS**  
**BEST PICTURE**  
BEST DIRECTOR • ROBERT REDFORD  
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY • BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR PAUL SCOFIELD  
**3 BAFTA NOMINATIONS • BEST FILM**  
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY • BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR PAUL SCOFIELD



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**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
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**MGM**  
2.10, 5.50, 8.00

**WHITELEY**  
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**Burghley**  
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**AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM MARCH 17**











Nicholas Henderson lauds a magisterial history of the United Nations and a racy account of its impact on an inhospitable world

## Global policeman or dinosaur?

**UTOPIA LOST**  
The United Nations  
and World Order  
By Rosemary Righter  
The Twentieth Century Fund Press,  
£19.50

**FROM COLD WAR TO  
HOT PEACE**  
UN Interventions  
1947-1994  
By Anthony Parsons  
Michael Joseph, £16.99

THE NEW Republican leaders in Congress are celebrating the 50th birthday of the United Nations this year by calling for a major reduction in American participation. In the view of the Secretaries of State and of Defence, this would cripple UN peacekeeping and stultify effective American leadership abroad. The UN is not, therefore, so much at a watershed, as Rosemary Righter describes it in *Utopia Lost*, her magisterial survey of the history and functioning of the UN, as on the edge of an abyss.

What are the reasons for the rejection by the Republicans of the main plank of US foreign policy for the last 50 years? How far does the disillusion extend beyond the US? To what extent is it justified, and what should be done about it? These are the international questions of the hour that render so pertinent both Rosemary Righter's work and a sprightly account of UN interventions, also published to mark the organisation's 50th anniversary, by Anthony Parsons, the former British Ambassador to the UN. Both books were, of course, written before the latest American onslaught.

As Righter points out, the UN has always had "a mercurial history in public and private esteem". High at the time of the Korean War, and described by Eisenhower as "the moral conscience of mankind", the UN was at a nadir of American popularity in the 1980s when it was the grandstand for anti-Western abuse and when the Reagan Administration withheld dues to it in order to exert pressure for

reform. It was variously condemned as an "unmanageable" institution or like a "prehistoric monster" or "reminiscent of the dark ages". Then, with the veto-free response to Saddam Hussein, the barometer soared again, only to plummet after the UN's shaky role in Somalia and the Balkans.

On the face of it there is something irrational in the present severe Republican attack on UN peacekeeping. The expected annual cost of this to the Americans is about \$1 billion or only 0.3 per cent of the US defence budget. Besides, the Gulf War, in which the UN, with the authority of the UN, led a 28-nation military coalition, accorded them much international glory and did not cost them a cent since they managed to get the Arabs to pay for it. It is possible that the Republican leaders may be reflecting, not just a reaction to the present malaise of the UN, but a recessive isolationist gene of their compatriots.



Nevertheless, Parsons believes that, to assuage American opinion, there will have to be a change in the contributions to the annual peacekeeping budget, and that some of the richer per capita countries should pay more than they do now. It can be surmised that, as a result of American cheese-paring, the Germans and Japanese will be asked to increase their contribution, in which event they will surely insist on a permanent seat in the Security Council as part of the deal.

Parsons, the least conventional of diplomats, has a style that is as racy in print as were his interventions in the Security Council. He can make the institution of the UN interesting having taken a direct part in much of its history which he describes in terms of the personalities involved, including the most awful. Created by the wartime alliance to prevent a third world war, the UN, particularly the Security Council, has nevertheless been preoccupied since the start with conflicts arising from decolonisation — and this may well continue to be so since the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

In theory the UN is precluded by Article 2(7) of the Charter from interfering in the domestic affairs of states. But Parsons suggests that this hands-off policy is difficult to maintain in the light of the Charter's concern for human rights and when evidence of the denial of these rights or of civil disaster is shown worldwide on television screens. Hence the inter-

vention to save the Kurds in Iraq in 1991 which Righter singles out as the "first time the Security Council recognised that common humanity might occasionally take precedence over the doctrine of non-intervention". She sees the most fundamental debate about the future of the UN to lie in its role in protecting human rights. The faults of the UN have not, in Parsons's view, been caused by the Cold War. The organisation has done too little to prevent trouble, and become overinvolved and confused in trying to cure it since "an unfortunate habit has developed of combining Chapter VI (mediation and peacekeeping with the consent of the parties) with Chapter VII (mandatory sanctions and the use of force)".

Righter has concentrated less on high-profile peacekeeping than on the economic and social side of the UN. While recognising the need for a shake-up of some 30 specialised agencies and more than 100 separate UN bodies, she

favours "selective section" rather than "structural reform", even if historical experience makes her sceptical of the outcome.

Her book is not an easy read, but it is balanced and thorough: an incomparable work of reference. It also raises far-reaching questions about the UN's relevance to the modern world.

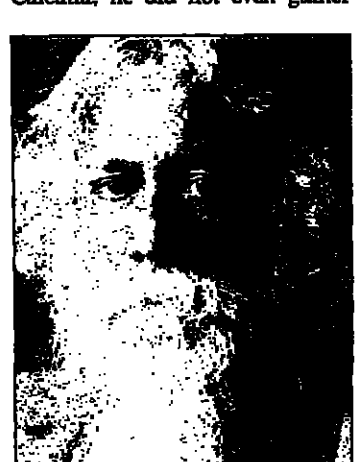
She does not think that it is the only component of a "new world order". The world is no longer one of nation-states in which domestic and international affairs can be neatly compartmentalised as it was for the drafters of the UN Charter. Finance and industry are operated nowadays regardless of frontiers. The information super-highway must surely affect the way the UN is conducted. There is much sober truth in her conclusion: "Younger generations have diminished expectations for the power of governments to organise their lives and are considerably more sceptical about the desirability of their doing so... It would be mistaken to assume that the global agenda of a 'new world order' necessarily requires global initiatives, international bureaucracies, or the guiding hand of the State."

## The wisest fool in Calcutta

P.N. Furbank

**RABINDRANATH TAGORE**  
The Myriad-Minded Man  
By Krishna Dutta  
and Andrew Robinson  
Bloomsbury, £25

THE title which Mary Lago chose for her book about Tagore and William Rothenstein, published 20 years or so ago, was *Imperfect Encounter*. This new biography of Tagore confirms the aptness of her title. At the age of 51, Tagore came to England, bearing a notebook filled with his translations of his own poems. The ensuing train of events is inexhaustibly suggestive, whether as a piece of social and literary history or as a wry fable.



Tagore: artist posing as a sage

More important, these translations, belonging as they did to an indeterminate species, neither Bengali nor English, were ideal for appropriation. Yeats saw in them something he dearly wanted to believe in, and which was easier to believe in when Bengal, rather than Ireland, was in question: an "unbroken civilisation" with a "common mind" running through it, so that subtle poems might speak to the beggar in the road.

Likewise the translations gave the chameleonic Ezra Pound — though greatly to his credit he tried to work out the metre and rhyme-scheme of Tagore's originals — the idea of a new prose-poetry manner for himself, provoking him to produce some magnificent versions from the Hindi of the mystic Kabir. Yeats and he had, with genius, seen in Tagore's English translations what was not really there, and within a short while their enthusiasm dropped away, leaving Tagore chagrined and confused.

But what the prize had also fatally done was to convince him he was supposed to be a sage, that he must be India's voice to the world, as much as the Mahatma Gandhi. There thus began for him an endless series of wanderings from platform to platform, over the habitable globe, when he would speak of India (and of himself as its representative) as the crucible in which East and West should unite, engendering "universal man".

His was the brand of wishful, Romain-Rollandish rhetoric which caused Roquentin, in Sartre's *La Nausée*, to think with horror of humanism as capable of "digesting" all attitudes, turning them into the same sticky white paste. It became his chosen excuse for these lecture-tours that they were his "begging-bowl", on behalf of the university he had created at Shantiniketan. But not only was his academy always plunged in quarrels, scandals and near-bankruptcy; the "meeting of East and West" never seemed to flourish there, nor "universal man" to be born.

The irony in this goes deep. For what convinces the English-speaking reader that Tagore was, after all, a man of high talent, are his short stories and novellas; and the theme to which he keeps returning in these stories is precisely the danger of losing the individual in the universal. The tragic silences and broken marriages in these moving stories often spring from spiritual pride: from the feeling that everyday human feelings are too commonplace — too "prosaic", as the well-meaning hero of *The Broken Nest* puts it to himself — to have attention paid to them.

This biography of Tagore is judicious, sympathetic and exceedingly well documented, but is perhaps a trifle lenient to what one may unkindly call the nonsense side of his career. The authors use the words "myriad-minded" and "colossus" about him, but those do not seem right, and belong to the unreal role Europe thrust upon him. One can hardly claim that, in any serious sense, Tagore was a thinker at all. But, as well as a spoilt but engaging and life-enhancing man, he was a most appealing artist, who left behind him some stories which are fit to set beside Chekhov's.



Rajiv Gandhi's widow, Sonia, circles his burning funeral pyre in May 1991. Like his mother Indira, he was assassinated: unlike her, he had no obvious political heir

**RAJIV GANDHI and Rama's Kingdom** is the third of Ved Mehta's slim volumes of political reflections on India since Independence. Their focus, not surprisingly, is the Nehru-Gandhi family. In this volume Mehta continues to unravel their many-layered and extraordinary influence.

Mehta, an accomplished author, captures with an acute outsider's eye and insider's knowledge, the high and low points of the charged period spanning the last years of the reign of the steely Indira. He then looks at the subsequent rise and death of her son, the film star-like Rajiv, who was anointed her successor as Prime Minister within hours of her assassination in 1984. His quick succession suggested that the "democratic monarchy" of the family was secure. In reality it lasted until 1991.

The book comprises carefully composed analytical narratives, free from journalistic excess, based on articles which first appeared in *The New Yorker*. They capture the complex court intrigue at the heart of the modern Indian empire, the absurdity and high emotion that characterises the palimpsest that is India.

Mehta portrays the tough, manipulative machinations that helped Indira to consolidate and centralise her power, but also polarised the country. Ultimately, she resorted to the divide and rule policy that has been a hallmark of many previous rulers. This was seen in her approach to Punjab, where she actively encouraged a movement of Sikh extremists to counterbalance the Sikh moderates who had driven the Congress party from power in the province. Her elaborate chess games resulted in Panjabi turmoil dominating India for the next decade.

The Rajiv period, with its burst of new hope and subsequent let-

## How India's dynasty governed its anarchy

Praveen Moman

**RAJIV GANDHI and Rama's Kingdom**  
By Ved Mehta  
Yale University Press, £14.95

down, is well encapsulated. Rajiv was even more votes than his mother and grandfather when first elected, but he was soon seen to be isolated and vacillating, intriguing with his coterie for his own ends. His economic reforms, however, while not removing the socialist framework, encouraged greater private enterprise and loosening of the "licensing raj", policies which have since borne fruit under the governments of his successors.

Mehta also weaves in colourful asides — from the influence of Hindu family etiquette in the friction between Indira and Maneka, her elder son Sanjay's widow, to the frustration of dealing with insolent Indian telephonists. The investigation into the Bofors scandal, which led to the erosion of Rajiv's power and the rise of other political forces, including the BJP, is sensitively discussed. Despite their attempts, the BJP and its ultranationalist supporters have not managed finally to destroy Nehru's cherished secularism and themselves appear to have sunk into the Indian mire.

Mehta rightly states that the ending of the great dynasty — for the moment at least — has left a serious hole in a country where

hereditary connections are all. His implicit criticism of the family's role is also justified: although they gave a lot to the country, their influence was not always benign. Perhaps the truth is that Nehru, Indira and Rajiv were all weighed down, in their different ways, by a country that has never been easy to govern. In retrospect, Nehru's approach of ruling by gentle consensus, of coaxing along the country's many communities, in an upright and dignified way, was perhaps the most successful.

Despite all the instability chronicled by the author in the "functioning anarchy" that is India, Mehta is surprisingly optimistic about the future. He suggests that Hindu fatalism might be better suited to modern life than Christianity, Islam or Sikhism and that this might help it to cope with the current rapid change. He believes the country's growing middle classes will ensure that a strong united democratic India survives. Perhaps his predictions will be correct. Those who have to live through its upheavals might be less sanguine.

## Where bodies are buried but spirits live

Julia Neuberger

**LOVE'S WORK**  
By Gillian Rose  
Chatto & Windus £9.99

I FOUND this fragment of autobiography by the philosopher and theologian Gillian Rose heart-rendingly beautiful. Her writing is spare and elegant, not what one would expect from someone who recounts painstakingly the problems of being dyslexic, and her anger, even now, at being told she has a "lazy eye", is apparent. Professor Rose does not, in this extraordinary book, tell the whole story of her life. We learn little of her childhood, except for the dyslexia, and her parents' marital break-up. Her mother divorced twice, once in Gillian's childhood, leading to weekends spent with her father and bad times with him when she changed her surname to her stepfather's instead of his.

The second time was later, when she was just beginning at Oxford. Having been awarded a scholarship, she got an unheated room in college, no doubt of comparative magnificence. But all the other rooms along the corridor, the rooms of lesser mortals, were heated. She was so miserable about the divorce, the collapse of her

family, and so cold, that she could hardly bear to get up in the mornings. That particular symptom of depression is commonplace. But few undergraduates now will appreciate just how cold rooms in Oxbridge colleges were without heating, when one would go to bed wearing all one's clothes, with the bedside rug on the bed as well, and still shiver until one slept.

That was not the happiest of times, but her focus in this volume is on a series of friends who brought her happiness, friends of great variety. There is Jim, dying of an AIDS-related disease in New York, whom she cherishes, and whose thinking she still values. When visiting him, she stayed with another friend, the indomitable Edna, over 90 and still working every day for Gary, yet another of

Jim's friends. At this stage the story seems to be getting too complicated, but only then do we get a flash of Gillian Rose's preoccupation with physical disability and the ways in which human beings can survive it to lead ordinary, pleasurable, valuable lives. For Gary has some disorder that renders his hands claw-like, his joints locked in tension, his smile a strange rictus.

And then there is Edna, whom the author grows to love for herself. She lost her nose through cancer, and now has an artificial one. She asks in a matter-of-fact way whether Gillian would mind if she did not put it on first thing in the morning. Gillian finds that she prefers the neat black hole to the bulbous artificiality that is the fake proboscis. The reader can almost see it in the mind's eye.

Nor are these the only accounts of physical deformity with which we are regaled in this book, regaled with an extraordinary sensitivity, allied to a down-to-earth approach to the bodily details that few of us can match in speech, let alone on

paper. For she also tells the story of Yvette, Yvette of the many lovers and five children, whom she met through a colleague at Sussex University, and with whom she spent a great deal of time exchanging poems and writers and thinkers, until Yvette's death in the hospice. Again, the physical details are not spared us. Yvette delighted in showing everyone the original scar, and she spared Gillian no embarrassment in fondling her infant grandson's genitals, against all inhibitions and fears of abuse.

THIS IS a book about the body, but it is also about love and friendship and ideas. Gillian Rose is fierce in her argument, even cerebral; but she is also aware of herself as an emotional being, on whom she sometimes looks with surprise. Her intelligence shines through these accounts of friends, lovers and journeys (including one to Auschwitz as some kind of adviser to the Polish government).

This slim volume, compelling throughout, ends as it begins, with herself. Her own story remains unfinished. To reveal the ending would spoil it for the reader, but the last pages disclose something of her philosophy of life and love, body and spirit. One puts her book down with a sigh, feeling that one has got to know her so well, and longing to meet her, to pursue the argument — be it about feminism, or Dante, or the nature of Jewish belief, or liberalism.

For Gillian Rose has a piercing intellect, and myriad ideas, ideas that need to be developed beyond this book into something longer and more fully argued. But even then, it could not be more satisfying than this short testimony of her life, and love's, work.

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# Irish make sweeping changes for last game

By DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND'S decision to retain an unchanged XV for their grand slam rugby union meeting with England at Twickenham on March 18 was as expected yesterday as was Ireland's desperate search for a winning formula, which has led them to name a new captain and make six changes — two of them positional — for their wooden spoon match with Wales in Cardiff on the final day of the five nations' championship.

Since the turnover of personnel which followed defeat by South Africa last November, Scotland have been consistency itself, and change has been forced on them only by injury. Now, they take their unbeaten championship

hall under the eye of Roy Laidlaw, one of Scotland's development officers, so that their prospects can be assessed.

After 14 matches as the Ireland captain, Michael Bradley is relegated to the replacements for the game against Wales. His place at scrum half goes to Niall Hogan, who played against England in January, and Terry Kingston, who was not even the first-choice hooker when the season began, will lead the side.

At least, he will do so provided that he has recovered from the bruised ribs that he sustained against France last weekend. It would be of a piece with Ireland's fortunes this year were Kingston to prove unfit.

The Dolphin hooker led Ireland against Japan during the 1991 World Cup, and in midweek matches during the tour to New Zealand and, last summer, to Australia. However, if he does play, it leaves the leadership of the Ireland World Cup squad in doubt, for Kingston will surely face a renewed challenge from Keith Wood for the hooking berth.

Wood has finally given best to a nagging shoulder injury and will rest for six weeks, hence Shayne Byrne's place among the replacements. Yet if Kingston, rather than Bradley, were to lead Ireland in South Africa, then Wood, one of the finds of the tour to Australia, would be the perennial replacement.

Ireland's first task is to beat Wales in Cardiff, before they meet in their World Cup pool for what seems likely to be the place as runner-up to New Zealand. Neither they nor Wales, whose XV will be named today, have won a championship match this season, and now Ireland have dropped Philip Danaher, Niall Woods and Eddie Halvey, as well as Bradley.

record to Twickenham with the side that played so convincingly against Wales, though Duncan Peterson, the team manager, admitted yesterday that there had been imperfections in the 26-13 win.

"It was a tremendous performance, but there were areas we are concerned about," he said. "Players must step up their concentration and first-time tackling. Certain individuals must put in more tackles than they did on Saturday."

Scotland will delay the selection of their World Cup party until April 4, to give long-term casualties the greatest opportunity to recover. Three of those, Alan Sharp, Peter Walton and Andy Nichol, are spending this week at Lilles-

Paddy Johns, who, last week, had suspected appendicitis, is restored to the back row and Jonathan Bell moves into the centre, where he won his first two caps, against Australia nearly ten months ago. This permits Richard Wallace, of Garryowen, to return for a sixteenth cap, with Simon Geoghegan moving across to the left wing.



Foley, who scored a try for the Barbarians, holds off a challenge from Foale at Northampton yesterday

## Halpin nets hat-trick in late try spree

East Midlands ..... 19  
Barbarians ..... 56

By DAVID LLEWELLYN

GARY HALPIN, the Ireland tight-head prop, claimed a hat-trick of tries as the Barbarians eventually produced their traditional early spring feast of tries against East Midlands in the Mobbs Memorial match at Franklin's Gardens yesterday.

Yet before the feast went the famine as both teams fumbled and stumbled through a pointless first 20 minutes. Then things clicked. The shaven-headed Halpin, who has been on the Ireland bench in the five nations' championship this season, scored the first three of the invitational XV's eight tries. Paul Burke,

his fellow Ireland replacement, converted all eight tries, a kicking display for the Ireland selectors to ponder, after they had dropped him after the opening two five nations' matches. Burke also had a hand in a couple of the Barbarians' tries.

In all, Irishmen accounted for 41 of the Barbarians' points — Anthony, the Shannon flanker, and Niall Woods, the Ireland wing, scoring one try apiece.

English youth rugby will benefit by £2,400 from Scottish Amicable, the Barbarians' sponsors, who will be donating £300 for each try scored.

The remaining Barbarians' tries were scored by Phil de Glanville (2), their captain, and Derek Stark, the Scotland wing. East Midlands were no

slackers themselves and had to cope with the late withdrawal through pressure of work of Ian Hunter, their full back, who is trying to force his way into the England World Cup squad after injury. Cameron Glanville, of Bedford, his replacement, did not let the side down, however, and scored their third and final try, midway through the second half.

Paul Alston, the East Midlands' captain, scored the try of the match. It came in the 52nd minute and began deep in their own 22, the ball passing through five pairs of hands before Alston touched down.

Glanville's effort was praise-worthy, too. He was on the end of a fine three-quarter move after the East Midlands forwards had set up an attack-

ing position close to the Barbarians' line.

East Midlands last won this annual fixture in 1985. Since then, the Barbarians have averaged almost nine tries a game.

SCORES: East Midlands: Tries: Mor, Alston, Glanville. Conversions: Grayson (2), Stark, Foley, Woods. Barbarians: Burke (8).  
EAST MIDLANDS: (Northampton unless stated): C. Glanville (Bedford), C. Mor, R. MacNaughton, B. Whistons (Bedford), R. Subbaram (Bedford), P. Grayson, M. Dawson, M. Volland, D. Franklin (Long Buckby), M. Lewis (Sharncliffe), P. Burke (York), C. Glanville (Bedford), S. Worrell (Rotherham and RAF), K. Colclough (Swansea), S. Byrne (Blackrock College), G. Alston (London Irish), D. Stark (London Irish), J. Richardson (Edinburgh Academicals), J. Richardson (Edinburgh Academicals), N. Huxley (Worcester), A. Foley (Sharncliffe), C. Vigney (Sale).  
Referee: J. Fleming (Scotland).

## Lewis return set for Sacramento

SACRAMENTO has been chosen as the venue for Lennox Lewis's final eliminator for the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship against Lionel Butler, of the United States, on May 13. It will be the Briton's first contest since he lost the WBC title to Oliver McCall, another American, at Wembley last September.

Dublin, Reno and Las Vegas were also in contention, but the 15,000-seater Arco Arena — the home of the Sacramento Kings basketball team — made the best offer. Butler, 27, is a hard-hitter from Los Angeles who has had more than 30 contests, the last ten of which he has won by knockout. Gerald McClellan regained consciousness yesterday, 12 days after his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title bout with Nigel Benn. The American is breathing by himself after being taken off sedation.

## Title success at eighty

BOWLS: Gwen Pepper, 80, and Liz Read and Bernice Trafford, her two international team-mates, of Cherwell, Oxford, won the English women's indoor triples championship at Northampton yesterday by beating Ann Anderson, Maureen Whitton and Margaret Shaw, of Darlington, 21-9 in the final (Gordon Allan writes). It was the Cherwell club's first success in an event in which they have been runners-up twice. There was little to choose between the leads, Pepper and Anderson, and the issue was decided by Trafford's ability to skip to play important shots when Cherwell were in difficulty.

## Mahaney shows the flag

YACHTING: Kevin Mahaney and his crew on board *Young America* won the round-robin America's Cup defence trials with two days to spare in San Diego yesterday. They now proceed to the semi-final stage with a valuable two-point advantage over *Stars & Stripes*, skippered by Dennis Conner, and the all-women crew on *Mighty Mary*. *Young America* ended the gruelling two-month trials with a record of 14 wins and six defeats. The crew closed the series by sailing past *Stars & Stripes* during heavy weather on Tuesday to win by more than two minutes.

## Zarak moves through

SQUASH: Zarak Jahan, of Pakistan, moved into the third round of the Anderson Consulting Portuguese Open with a five-set victory over Philip Whitlock, of England, in Lisbon yesterday. Zarak, despite being restricted by a knee brace, showed his customary determination to win 10-15, 15-10, 15-12, 14-15, 15-7 in a match lasting 77 minutes. Whitlock led 7-2 and 12-8 in the third game, but Zarak found another gear to take seven successive points. After Whitlock had edged the fourth game, Zarak easily won the decider and now meets Jansher Khan, the No 1 seed.

## Elliott for president

HOCKEY: Robin Elliott was elected president of the Hockey Association at its annual general meeting in London yesterday. He replaces Phil Appleyard, who decided to stand down after ten years. Appleyard will continue as treasurer of the International Hockey Federation. Sir William Borlase school, from Marlow, won the British Aerospace girls' under-16 national schools championships in a snow-covered Blackpool yesterday, beating Wisbech, from Cambridge, 2-0 in the final match.

## Crisis talks planned

SWIMMING: The Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain is to hold an emergency meeting with coaches and the directors of swimming for England, Scotland and Wales after the decision by Don Talbot, the head of coaching in Australia, not to accept an offer to become Britain's first national performance director. A spokesman for the British Swimming Coaches Association said: "This is now a matter of emergency. We must move on and make our plans for the summer ahead and the Olympic Games next year."

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Nowadays, it is generally accepted by the more serious players that to respond at the two level you must have at least ten points. That has advantages in many sequences. However, it does produce some distortions when you are responding on a weaker hand. On each of the hands below, what do you bid over your partner's one heart bid?

- (A) ♠ J432 ♥ 5 ♦ A Q J 97 ♣ J 9 4 2  
(B) ♠ J 2 ♥ 4 ♦ Q 7 6 4 3 ♣ K 10 8 5 4  
(C) ♠ A Q 10 4 ♥ 7 ♦ K Q J 9 4 ♣ 10 8 4  
(D) ♠ J 2 ♥ 6 ♦ 10 4 3 2 ♣ K Q J 9 8 3

(A) One spade. With only nine points, you do not have enough to respond at the two level; but do not make the mistake of responding INT — if your partner has four spades, you will miss a fit in that suit.

This hand will play well in spades if your partner has four — you will be able to ruff out your partner's hearts.

(B) One NT. A consequence of keeping up the strength of two level responses is you have to bid one no trump on some bizarre distributions.

This, incidentally, is in contrast with all other no-trump responses and rebids — these should always be more or less balanced, with at least two cards in partner's suit.

(C) Two diamonds, now you have enough strength to bid at the two level. A typical continuation might be:

	W	E
19	29	28
29	28	29

Two spades is forcing, and shows game aspirations. Some players would consider it game-forcing. Not me though — I would pass if my partner continued with three diamonds or three hearts.

(D) INT. If your partner bids again, you can bid clubs — now he will realise that, although you have a good suit, you will not have much in the way of high cards. Notice the effect on this sequence:

	W	E
19	29	28
29	28	29

As East bids two clubs on the first round, he is known to have quite a good hand — with a weaker one, he would have started with INT.

By Philip Howard

### INANGA

- a. A Zulu priest  
b. An antipodean whitebait  
c. Apache epic

### KIORE

- a. False gold ore  
b. A vegetarian rat  
c. A Muslim code of manners

### MEITWURST

- a. Smoked sausage  
b. A middle-distance race  
c. An "ng" diacritic  
HORNERO  
a. A cowboy  
b. A baker-bird  
c. Paint to imitate marble

Answers on page 45

## KEENE on CHESS

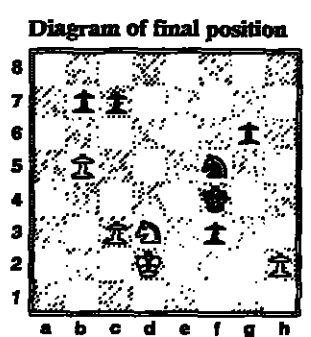
By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT  
Chess for charity

Today, I publish one of the games from the 400 which were played by ten teams against 11 British champions in a record-breaking exhibition at the Royal Automobile Club over the weekend. The event raised more than £5,000 for the Save the Children charity.

White: Bob Wade  
Black: Tony Buzan  
RAC, London, March, 1995  
Veresov opening

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| 1 d4    | c5    |
| 2 Nc3   | Nf6   |
| 3 Bg5   | g6    |
| 4 Bb5   | g7    |
| 5 e4    | g8    |
| 6 Nc4   | g7    |
| 7 Qc4   | g8    |
| 8 O-O-O | g7    |
| 9 Bb5   | g7    |
| 10 Nf3  | O-O-O |
| 11 Rf1  | Bb4   |
| 12 c3   | Ba5   |
| 13 Bc4  | Ba6   |
| 14 Bb6+ | Ba7   |
| 15 Nc5  | e6    |
| 16 Ne6  | Rd7+  |
| 17 Rg1  | Rg8   |
| 18 Nc5  | Rb8   |
| 19 Ne4  | Rb8   |
| 20 Rb8+ | Kd8   |
| 21 g4   | Kd7   |
| 22 g4   | Kd7   |
| 23 b4   | Kd7   |
| 24 Kc2  | g6    |
| 25 g5   | g5    |
| 26 Nc6+ | Kf5   |
| 27 Nh7  | Bd2   |
| 28 b5   | exb5  |
| 29 exd5 | Ne7   |

- 30 Nhg5 e4  
31 Nf5 exd3  
32 Nd2 Kf4  
33 Kd2 Nf5  
34 Nd3+  
adjudicated as a win for Black

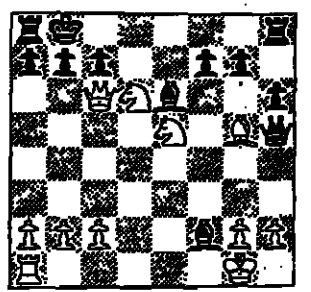


The scores by the various teams were as follows (all out of 40 points possible): equal 1. St Paul's School, London and Watson, Farley and Williams. 7.5pts; equal 3. British Junior Ladies, Royal Automobile Club and the guest celebrity team, all 6.5; equal 6. City of London School and Ashhead Jrs, 6.

Champions scores  
The leading scores by the British champions against the teams (again out of 40 possible) were as follows: Jon Speelman 39.5; Michael and Jonathan Mestel 37.5; Ray Keene 36.5; Paul Littlewood 36; William Harrison 34; Michael Basman 33; Bob Wade 30.5.

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Tasic — Nikolic, Arandelovac 1993. This position is based on one given in Garry Kasparov's Chess Puzzle Book. White has offered his queen but, rather than taking it, Black has offered a bishop. What should White do?



## Total ban would be unfair

From Mr Tom Biggs-Davison  
Sir, David Miller (March 2) forgets that without supporters there would be no professional football, and fails to draw a distinction between those of us who travelled to Bruges on packages organised by Chelsea Football Club and those who travelled independently, ignoring explicit requests made by the club. The former are supporters; the latter, self evidently, are not.

I saw no "siege of the beautiful, medieval city of Bruges" before the match. It was friendly and peaceful. There was, understandably, an extraordinary police presence at the Olympiastadion (some distance from the old city) as there had been at ports and airports, and yet the Belgian authorities have complained Chelsea FC on the behaviour of their 2,000 and more supporters before, during and after the match. If that behaviour was in part driven by the certain knowledge that offenders would be identified by the club and never again be allowed to travel on official packages, then so be it.

Chelsea supporters cannot confirm or deny Miller's description of what took place an hour after the final whistle. They were not there. They were already on their coaches heading for the coast on a route that kept them well away from the city. The threat

came from independent travellers who attach themselves to English football but who have no interest in the game. Of course, Government should act. Of course, prosecutions against those who threaten public safety should be brought and sentences should be severe. Clubs have been calling for such legislative support for many years. A total ban on overseas travel would only penalise the true supporter who would observe it. A ban on independent travel, with proper penalties in place for any breach, is the way forward.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM BIGGS-DAVISON,  
28 Princes Street,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.  
From Mr A. McDonald  
Sir, The explosion of a large number of British "football hooligans" from Belgium makes me wonder under what authority the Belgian police were acting. The troublemakers were rounded up and placed on a ferry to Britain within hours of their arrival. Most of them were not charged with any offence. No deportation orders were made. They were citizens of an EU state exercising their freedom of movement as provided by the Maastricht Treaty. Yours faithfully,  
A. McDONALD,  
7 Colson Way, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear.

## Switch final to September

From Mr David R. Bateman

Sir, David Hands (February 28) reports on the potential problems for the England rugby union squad if Bath and Leicester again reach the final of the Pilkington Cup.

This will inevitably be a hard-fought game, and it seems incredible that the Rugby Football Union should allow up to 13 members of the World Cup squad to face possible injury within days of leaving for South Africa.

Another solution must be found. The final could be allowed to proceed, excluding members of the national squad from the teams, or it

could be postponed until the return of the team from South Africa. The first option would not be popular with either the clubs or the spectators, and the second option would mean the game being played out of the season.

Alternatively, the final could be made the first showpiece event of the 1995-96 season, in September. For this important year, while England has a team with the potential to win, this has to be the best option.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID R. BATEMAN,  
The Wayside,  
390 Fencepiece Road,  
Chigwell, Essex.

## TV off the ball

From Mr Edward Young

Sir, Matthew Bond's excellent TV Action Replay (March 6) about coverage of international rugby union matches ends with "the incident that got away" where "the BBC's cameras have missed vital, off-the-ball action" and recommends more cameras.

Perhaps they are not necessary. Quite apart from simply turning a camera to cover off-the-ball incidents, the director

should realise that the ball is not necessarily dead after an unsuccessful kick at goal, and if it goes into touch it can be rapidly brought into play by a quick throw-in. But the BBC cameras again and again focus on the visual cliché of the head and shoulders of the last player of the ball while an exciting counter-attack is beginning off-camera.

I am, yours faithfully,  
E. YOUNG,  
Stile Park, Willowglen Road,  
Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

## Legal precedent

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, There is a legal precedent to Mr John Potter's suggestion (Sports Letters, March 2) that a test prosecution is long overdue for a boxing death. In 1901, at the Central Criminal Court, a prosecution for manslaughter followed a fatal accident after a head injury during a contest at the National Sporting Club.

The judge "thought the weight of the evidence went to show the fatal blow was caused not by a knockout blow inflicted by [the defendant] Roberts, but by a fall on to the ropes in the effort of the deceased victim, by throwing

himself back, to avoid a blow" (R v Roberts and others, June 29, 1901).

The facts are, of course, distinguishable from the current controversy, but the jury's verdicts in answer to the specific questions formulated by the trial judge were: accident; lawful boxing match as distinct from illegal prize-fighting; not guilty of manslaughter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
EDWARD GRAYSON,  
4 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4.

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# Judges take short view of sparkling Cousins

By JOHN HENNESSY

STEVEN COUSINS, the British figure skating champion, produced the best programme of his young life at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham yesterday. He was placed sixth in the world championships short programme, but you do not have to be a jingoist to question whether or not he was fairly marked.

The winner was Todd Eldredge, the United States champion, followed by Elvis Stojko, the Canadian winner a year ago, and Scott Davis. Eldredge's predecessor as holder of the American title.

There need be no doubt about those three, Eldredge and Stojko because of their superior combination, triple axel to triple toe loop, and Davis because of a superb sit

confirmed that he performed the correct number of turns in all the spins.

The measure of Cousins' advance is that he finished only tenth in the European championships in Dortmund in January. Now only two Europeans were ahead of him, and in dubious circumstances.

For Eldredge this was a heartening resurgence as he has lived in the shadows since last appearing in 1992. Now, with the national title under his belt, he seems a new man.

There was an anxious moment for American spectators when he was seen to struggle on landing the triple lutz but he held on and there was no further cause for alarm. Stojko conquered his emotions bravely and, until the last group appeared, it seemed he would be in pole position. He is still on the front row of the grid, with only half a point separating him from Eldredge, but there are some dangerous spoilers around, unusually in the season after a Winter Olympics, any one of whom can upset a few apple carts in the free skating tonight.

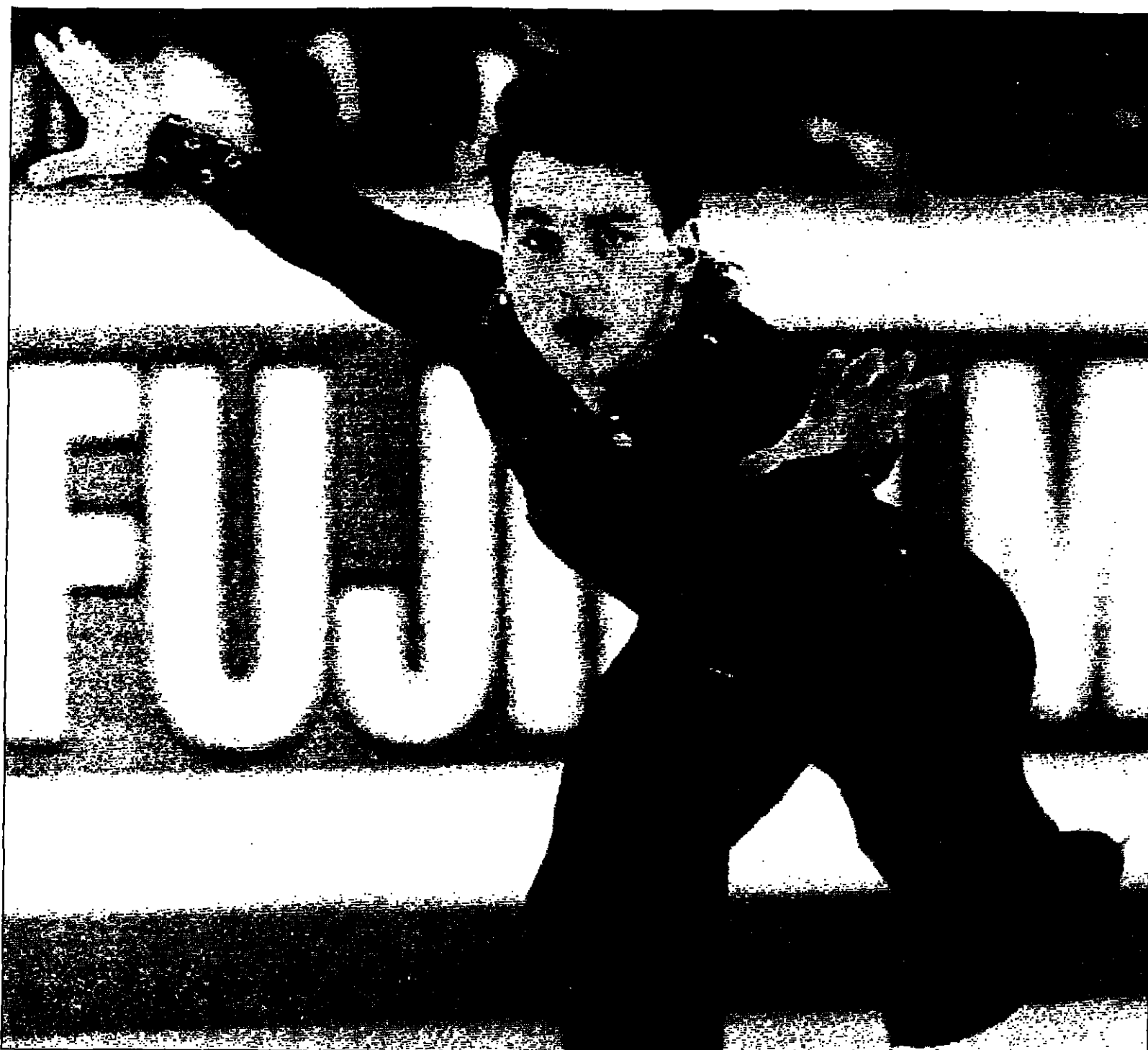
National preference aside, one felt a special support for Stojko; he has already explained how he suffered a roller-coaster of emotions after injuring a leg eight weeks ago.

For two and a half minutes yesterday, there was no sign of either inner perturbation or physical ailment as he clocked up the eight compulsory elements without fear of a flaw.

One competitor yesterday, in the short programme of the men's event at the world skating championships in Birmingham, dressed up in a *Star Trek* outfit and whooshed about the place like a rather macho spaceship; another wore a velvet doublet and a ruff and skated to a song about the eternal untrustworthiness of women.

Odd to think that both of them were outmanoeuvred by an American with an almost ostentatiously unpretentious routine, skated to the sound-track of something called *Swing Kids*.

The spaceship is called Elvis: Stojko, world champion, and he plans more spaceships tomorrow when he aims to regain the lead in the final free programme. The



Stojko, of Canada, whose punchy, aggressive style is loved by spectators, goes through his paces in the short programme yesterday.

## Swan cuts no ice with spaceship Stojko

It is all in the way these things take you, I suppose. One competitor yesterday, in the short programme of the men's event at the world skating championships in Birmingham, dressed up in a *Star Trek* outfit and whooshed about the place like a rather macho spaceship; another wore a velvet doublet and a ruff and skated to a song about the eternal untrustworthiness of women.

Odd to think that both of them were outmanoeuvred by an American with an almost ostentatiously unpretentious routine, skated to the sound-track of something called *Swing Kids*.

The spaceship is called Elvis: Stojko, world champion, and he plans more spaceships tomorrow when he aims to regain the lead in the final free programme. The

ruff-wearer is Alexei Urmanov; tomorrow, the Olympic champion will be wearing plumes and dancing Swan Lake, fluttering arms and all. Well, it would not do if we were all made the same.

Stojko, of Canada, has rather made a career of putting the macho into skating. He would not attract a second glance at a Canadian truck stop, at least as long as he did not wear his spacesuit.

His style is punchy and aggressive, by instinct a crowd-pleaser. He seemed yesterday to have toned down that side of his nature in an effort to make certain of pleasing the judges as well. He clearly does not intend to marginalise himself as the jolly maverick the crowd always thinks short-changed by the judges.

Stojko's hobbies — and does not he make sure we know

Simon Barnes on the eclectic mix of skaters on view in Birmingham

about them — include Taekwon-do and dirt bike racing. In fact, he introduced the British skater, Steven Cousins, to the later, Cousins — rare thing, a Briton who skates as if he really loves to perform — promptly rode into a tree.

But this is not the way Stojko picked up his injury. He hit the side of the rink in practice and damaged an ankle, the sort of thing that looks as if it ought to happen all the time, but does not.

It stood up well yesterday. "It felt great," he said. "There was so much adrenaline flowing. I only focused on my skating." His plans for regain-

ing the lead include a quadruple jump in his free programme today: "I'll go for it full out."

By their jumps ye shall know them. It is absolutely no good being a spaceship or even a swan if you cannot do the big jumps. Such art as you possess must be spatchcocked onto a succession of spectacular and inordinately difficult athletic feats.

Like many sports, figure skating is two sports in one: putting and driving, serving and shot-making, passing and tackling. In skating, you do your art for show, but you jump for dough. You ask Urmanov. He missed his landing on the combination, and that was enough to leave him behind the leaders.

Stojko includes in his free programme a tune apparently called *Frogs in Space*, which

brings us by easy stages to Philippe Candeloro. Candeloro, the darling of the French, is a classic example of the forever-hard-done-by maverick. He tends towards understated performances that involve a bare chest, American flag, or mimed injection of nameless substances.

Candeloro wears a pony tail, cad's side whiskers, goatee and earring. As ever, his performance, to music from *The Godfather*, was long on style. Content? A missed landing cost him any chance of the lead.

It was not a day when style was enough. Todd Eldredge, of the United States, won the day on pure content. His clean, unflashy routine hit the spot with the judges. Elvis the spaceship may still be the narrow favourite, but he has missed pole position.

## Salim considers retiring

By SIMON WILDE

SALIM MALIK, who has been given seven days by Pakistan's cricket board to explain why he should not be disciplined for his part in alleged attempts to bribe opponents, may announce his retirement from the game rather than await punishment, according to *Dawn*, Pakistan's leading English-language newspaper, yesterday.

Salim, 31, who was dismissed as Pakistan captain on Tuesday, has denied any wrongdoing and yesterday repeated his intention to sue the Melbourne newspaper that first linked his name to the match-rigging allegations, adding that he might also take legal action against former team-mates Rashid Latif and Basit Ali.

Rashid and Basit made an early departure from Pakistan's recent tour of southern Africa, an act that contributed

to the need for the mounting charges of corruption to be examined. Rashid had accused Salim of betting on matches in which he was playing.

Salim said yesterday that the board's decision to remove him from the captaincy was "unfair" but unless he can speedily prove it to be so, he will almost certainly not play for his country again. He is Pakistan's third-highest Test run-scorer with 4,804 runs at an average of 45.75 from 84 matches.

Imran Khan, the former Pakistan captain, has taken Salim's fall as a cue to resume his nationalistic rhetoric. He is an outspoken critic of corruption in Pakistan and claims that the country has surrendered its identity for Western materialism.

Jang, the Pakistan Urdu newspaper, yesterday reported Imran as saying that

anyone found guilty of betting on cricket should be publicly hanged. All forms of betting in Pakistan are illegal, although it is believed there is a large gambling black market.

The Pakistan cricket board will hope that its prompt action in dealing with the allegations will prevent serious harm being done to its image in the months leading up to its defence and joint hosting of the World Cup early next year, although further players are expected to be implicated in the scandal.

Inkhab Alam's response to being removed as Pakistan manager for failing to maintain discipline among his players was "surprise". However, almost every tour he supervised witnessed an unwillingness among the visitors to accept the decisions of those in authority and prominent among them was often the Pakistan manager himself.

## De Villiers helps to seal Test victory

SOUTH AFRICA completed victory over New Zealand by 93 runs in the Centenary Test match at Eden Park, Auckland yesterday. Having set New Zealand 275 to win in two sessions, South Africa bowled them out for 181.

The match seemed between the sides before South Africa wrapped up victory. Fanie de Villiers spearheading the collapse with four wickets for 42.

New Zealand attacked the target and appeared to have a good chance after a run-a-ball partnership of 64 between Ken Rutherford and Stephen Fleming had taken them to 114 for three at tea.

Fleming drove airily at the third ball after the interval from Matthews and edged to Dave Richardson. Rutherford scored 56 from 60 balls, including 11 fours, before he tried to pull a ball from outside off stump and spooned a catch to Andrew Hudson at mid-on.

Adam Parore and Dipak Patel kept New Zealand in the hunt but, with 108 still needed, Patel was superbly run out by Jonny Rhodes. Parore soon followed and the innings tailed away lamely to the South Africa seamers.

A fine 101 from Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, his fifth Test century, had allowed South Africa to declare shortly before lunch at 308 for six wickets.

New Zealand called Kerry Walmsley, a seam bowler who has played only three Test matches against Sri Lanka that begins in Napier on Saturday. Shane Thomson returns after injury to replace Matthew Hart but Martin Crowe has declared himself unfit.

Scoreboard, page 44

## Betts keeps Wigan links

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE astute manoeuvrings of Wigan are not merely confined to the field. Although Denis Betts, unlike Frano Botica, will be taking up a full-time contract with Auckland Warriors in May, the Great Britain rugby league second-row forward has decided against completely severing his links with the club.

Betts, 25, will return to Central Park in October for five months during the World Cup close season, and will possibly do the same next year as well. "My prime concern is proving myself for a World Cup place with England later this year," he said. "It involves a likely two years of back-to-back rugby, but both clubs have expressed confidence in me that I'm physically up to the workload."

Despite a five-year deal signed by Betts at Auckland, Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said yesterday: "If at any time Denis becomes

disillusioned there, he will be straight back to Wigan." Having Betts available over two years for more than half the English season has certainly lessened the blow of his departure after eight years.

Auckland, one of four new clubs in the Australia-based competition, play their first game at home tomorrow. Botica was supposed to have joined the Warriors on a two-year deal, but will now play only a limited number of games for them this summer before returning on an extended year-long contract at Wigan, after representing New Zealand in the World Cup in October.

It could be that only one side will be relegated from the first division of the Stones Bitter championship. Doncaster fill one of the two relegation places, but the club's merger with Sheffield Eagles next season has confused the issues of promotion and demotion. A meeting of the Rugby Football

League (RFL) board of directors must resolve these next Monday.

On the same day, Peter Fox, the Bradford Northern coach, and two of his players, David Myers and David Watson, who both failed to provide samples recently for drug testing, are to face separate RFL disciplinary hearings. Fox will be asked to explain allegations of gestures made to supporters following a home game with Featherstone Rovers last month.

Oldham are to leave Watersheddings after 100 years and move to a £6 million, 10,000-capacity stadium, part of a shops and leisure complex, which is to be built over three years close to Oldham Athletic football club's home at Boundary Park.

## IAAF hopes Christie can still be persuaded to compete

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MICHAEL ROSSWESS will represent Britain in the 60 metres at the world indoor athletics championships in Barcelona, which start tomorrow, even if Linford Christie, the Olympic 100 metres champion, has a late change of heart and decides to compete.

The British Athletic Federation (BAF) yesterday insisted that they would not drop Rossweiss from the team after Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), revealed that he was still trying to persuade Christie to run.

Nebiolo said: "The British federation can change the line-up." Istvan Gyulai, the general secretary of the IAAF, added that Rossweiss should be willing to step aside.

However, after speaking to Peter Radford, the executive chairman, Tony Ward, the spokesman of the BAF, said: "There are no circumstances that we would drop Michael Rossweiss from the team."

"If the president, in his fervour to get Linford Christie to run, could persuade him, he could do it, as far as we are concerned, via a wild card. We would then have three sprinters in the event."

Christie, 34, who has won a gold medal at every leading international championships except the world indoor meeting, broke the world indoor 200 metres record last month and later confirmed that he wanted to run in the 60 metres in Barcelona to pursue a full set of gold medals.

However, after winning a 60 metres race in Germany last Sunday, Christie announced that he would not compete in the three-day championships because he was tired.

Christie still plans to travel to Barcelona in his capacity as the Great Britain team captain, and, yesterday, it became clear that the IAAF had not yet given up hope of persuading him to run. "Personally, I hope that Christie can decide to compete," Nebiolo said.

"If I see him, I will ask him to compete. I believe it is my obligation and I believe it would be good for him to compete."

Gyulai revealed that Christie was still on the Barcelona entry list and so, technically, could still compete. He added: "If someone like Linford Christie, whose only missing medal is this one, wants to run, I would feel honoured to help him. Rossweiss is a young athlete and he would have many years to come."

We are not chasing Linford. He must make the decision. He must know if he wants this medal to complete his collection and be unprecedented in history."

Christopher Winner, the spokesman for the IAAF, criticised Christie for his late withdrawal. "Athletes like Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson told us they would not be coming months ago, and that's cricket," he said. "But this is extremely discouraging after raising the hopes of so many lovers of athletics."



Christie team captain

## Hooper ensures tough target

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

HALF-centuries by Carl Hooper and Brian Lara helped West Indies to reach 257 before they were all out with two balls of their 50 overs remaining in the opening one-day cricket international against Australia in Barbados yesterday.

Hooper hit 84 at the rate of a run a ball while Lara

needed 72 deliveries for his 55. They shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 68 in 69 balls after West Indies had lost three wickets for 87. Richie Richardson, who has resumed the captaincy, being run out for nine.

Stuart Williams was the first to go after West Indies won the toss and decided to take first use of an easy-paced pitch. He edged Paul Reiffel to Ian Healy with the score at 26 in the eighth over.

Phil Simmons, reinstated after missing the recent tour of New Zealand, hit eight fours while making 37 off 40 balls before Shane Warne got one to turn sharply, forcing him into an edge to Mark Taylor at first slip.

When Steve Waugh's direct hit from short fine leg accounted for Richardson in the 21st over, the Australians could be well pleased with their efforts.

Hooper and Lara first steadied things, then accelerated with some dazzling strokes. Hooper hit eight fours and a six while Lara, after some early struggles, found the boundary on seven occasions.

When Lara, Jimmy Adams and Junior Murray fell in quick succession, Winston Benjamin's hard hitting provided sound backing for Hooper. The pair ensured that there would be no collapse, adding 50 from 47 balls.

Craig McDermott was the pick of the Australia bowlers, taking three for 25 in ten overs. Sky Sports yesterday agreed a four-year deal to televise international cricket in the West Indies. Sky will show live coverage of Australia's Tests and one-day matches there this year. New Zealand's next year. India's in 1997 and England's in 1998.

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WORD-WATCHING  
Answers from page 42  
INANGA  
(b) The New Zealand name for a small fish, *Galaxias attenuatus*, the young form of which is called whaitahi. From the Maori. Also *inanga*, the South Island form. "Every year, shoals of the tiny, delicious inanga fish came up the creeks from the sea."  
KIORE  
(b) A small vegetarian rat, *Ramus exulans*, native to New Zealand. From the Maori name. "The Polynesian rat (*Kiore*, *Mus exulans*) arrived in the voyaging canoes. They were probably stowaways."  
METTWURST  
(b) A type of smoked German sausage, from the German. "Mettwurst can be found in the form of a small sausage (ends) or a horseshoe-shaped 'Westphalian' ring. Very heavily smoked; lightly spiced, no garlic. Mettwurst is eaten cold, sliced, but is also very good poached, sliced fairly thickly and served with boiled potatoes and cabbage."  
HORNERO  
(b) A South American bird of the genus *Furnarius*, especially *Furnarius rufus*, also called baker-bird, or oven-bird. From the Spanish for a baker. "A masterpiece along the line illustrated by swallow and martin is the nest of some of the South American oven-birds (*Furnarius*) — for instance, of that species (*Furnarius rufus*) which is called the hornero or baker."  
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE  
1. Kx2 and now after 1... cxd6; 2. Qxd6 Kxb3; 3. Qc5 Kxb3; 4. Nd7+ Bxd7; 5. Bf4 Black is mated. Traps to avoid are 1. Kf1 Qh2+ and Black mates, or 1. Kf1 dxc6 and the variation above fails as the bishop on f2 covers the c5 square.

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# Hide chases people's championship

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT  
IN LAS VEGAS

HERBIE HIDE, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, has travelled to Nevada from Norwich not so much to defend his title on Saturday as to acquire one. It is not recognised by any of the bodies that run world championships, but the title of "people's champion" is clearly held by Riddick Bowe, the former undisputed world champion.

Even though Bowe holds no title and, to the shame of world boxing bodies, is not even ranked by any of them, he is universally regarded as the best heavyweight in the world. Hide, while not being overawed by the size of his task or of Bowe and appearing quite confident of winning, remains subliminally deferential to the big man. Forgetting that he

was the champion, he told a news conference here yesterday that: "I have come to win the title."

Later in the day, Hide corrected himself. "I'm defending the title," he said, "but I feel I'm going to get a title as well because I'm fighting the best in the world. When, not if, I beat Bowe, I can look at the bodies that run world championships, but the title of 'people's champion' is clearly held by Riddick Bowe, the former undisputed world champion."

Hide, in spite of living in the shadow of Lennox Lewis and Frank Bruno, has not been overawed by the thought of boxing in Las Vegas or facing concentrated media attention. Even though yesterday he did not have Barry Hearn, his promoter (who arrives today), to hold his hand, Hide was relaxed and acquitted himself well before a battery of cameras, answering questions with a quiet confidence that had some Americans begin-

ning to think that he could cause an upset. One pundit immediately put \$100, at 5-1, on Hide.

"I like the idea of coming to Las Vegas," Hide said. "When I'm running, I think of Vegas. I can't stop running—and the more they go on about Bowe,

about how good he is, the more excited I get."

Hide said that he had studied as many of Bowe's contests on video as he could get hold of and had come to the conclusion that the former champion looked good when throwing punches, but not

when receiving them. Bowe, he felt, was not much more than a bully.

Bowe's bout with Lewis at the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988, has convinced Hide that a few well-placed clouts will turn the bout at the MGM Grand his way. "When you see that fight, you realise that Bowe is a bully," he said. "He likes dishing it out, but if he doesn't get his own way, he crumbles."

"I've got faster hands. He is flat-footed. He is a good inside fighter, but I don't fight inside. People are looking at what Bowe can do, like when they were looking at what Michael Bentt could do—but I exposed Michael Bentt."

Hide is confident that, after he beats Bowe, he will meet Mike Tyson, who is reported to have said that there are no good heavyweights out there except a young English boxer—Herbie Hide. Freddie King,

Hide's trainer, had tried to say that Tyson had said that Hide was the only one in the world who could give him a fight, but Hide, with a refreshing modesty, corrected him. "No, he didn't say that," Hide said. "He said I was the best man coming up."

Apart from Tyson, Lewis, Bowe and Evander Holyfield, Hide has little respect for other heavyweight contenders, least of all Frank Bruno. "I would knock him out in one or two rounds," Hide said. "He's not world class because every time he fights good opponents, he gets knocked out. I respect only Lennox, Tyson, Bowe and Holyfield; the rest of them are cowboys. They could not even tie my shoelaces."

Hide thought for a bit about his shoelaces and then, with a smile, added: "You know something, the only way Bowe can beat me is if he can tie my shoelaces together."

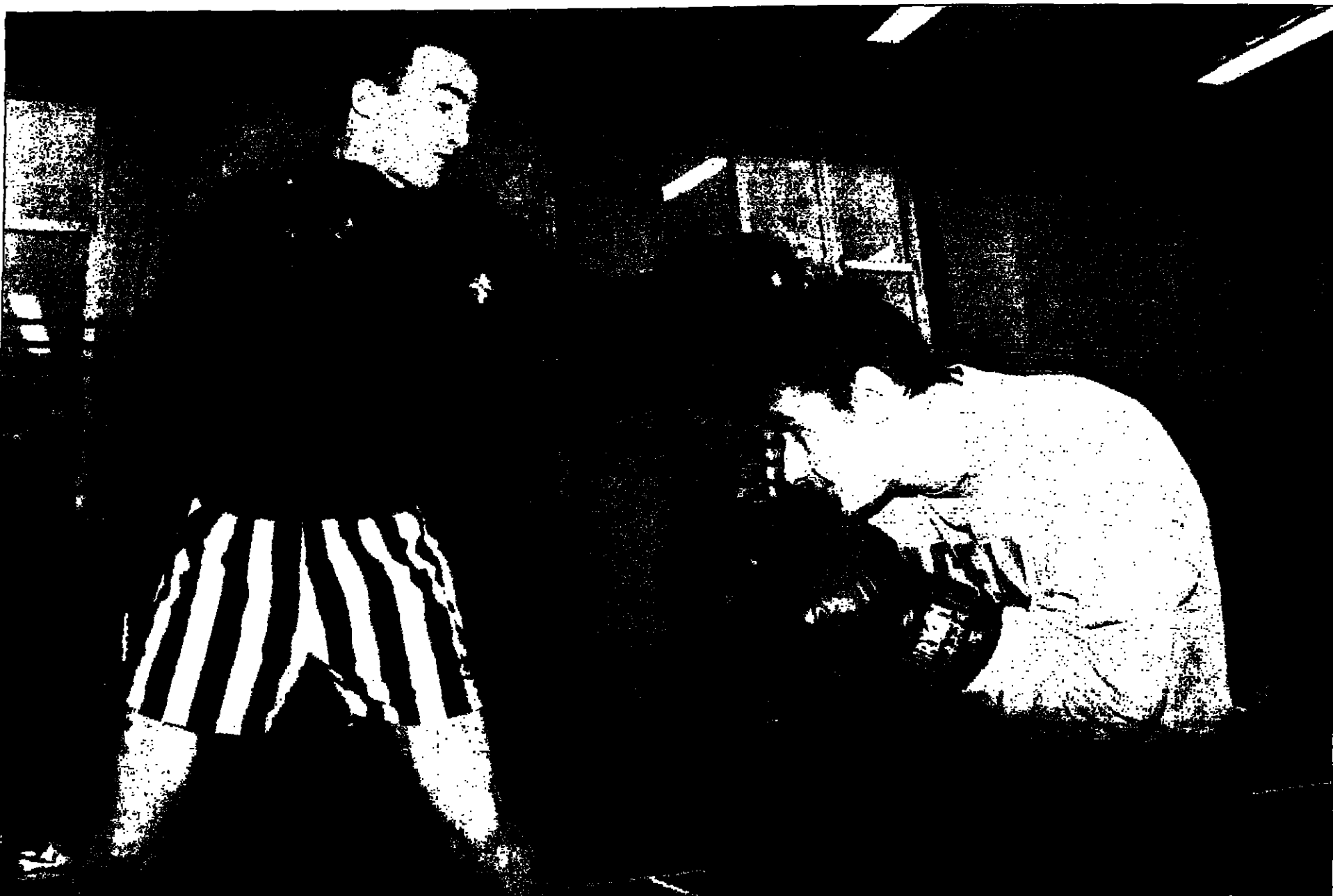


Hide: confident



Bowe: respected

## Andrew Longmore finds aggressive intent at Cambridge University



Lois, right, one of the leading boxers in the Cambridge team, gets down to some serious training with Hamish Bett, his sparring partner. Photograph: Geoff Robinson

The notice, by the door, suggests a genteel form of the noble art—"Please refrain from spitting in this gymnasium. It is unhygienic and unpleasant for the cleaners." This is, after all, midtown Cambridge, not downtown Detroit. Yet, for a frenzied hour or two at the 88th University boxing match tonight, the boundaries will be blurred as philosophers hit political scientists and historians pummel linguists with an intent recognisable in every gym in the land.

For once, Cambridge has a realistic chance of ending a sequence of nine successive defeats, and it matters not a jot that the dangers of the sport were advertised with startling clarity 12 days ago, nor that, in the minds of the abolitionists, intelligent people should know better. The same basic emotions which propelled Nigel Benn and Gerald McClellan to near mutual destruction will flow through the Guildhall tonight. "It will," Mason Cranswick, the Cambridge captain, a postgraduate in business administration from Magdalene, promised, "be no holds barred."

The real difference is that the 18 boxers of light and dark blue have a genuine choice—not the stark one between poverty and potential wealth that faces most professionals. If they need any reminders of what they are letting themselves in for, the Cam-

## No holds barred as boxing philosophers come to blows

bridge squad trains, with supreme irony, in a tight gym on the first floor of the university health centre. Yet their reasons for boxing are as old and as powerful as the sport itself. "Excitement and challenge: it gives you an amazing buzz; there is nothing to compare with it," Tom Lucas, the Cambridge middleweight, said.

Lucas, a political science postgraduate from Sidney Sussex College, took up boxing only eight months ago and has had just one contest. Much of his mental preparation for tonight will be spent reconciling the novice's twin peaks of aggression and fear. "It's 50-50," he said. "Half of you wants to go out there and do some damage, the other half wonders what on earth you're doing. There were moments before my first fight when I really thought I must be mad, but once you're geared up and ready, nothing will stop you."

His first bout nearly ended in disaster. "It was against this lad from the Kingfisher club in Lowestoft—M. Hoyle, he was called," Lucas said. "I never knew his Christian name,

but he came at me like a bull in a china shop and I thought: 'God, this is going to be embarrassing, being knocked out in front of 400 people in the Guildhall.' Yet I came through and won on points. I was really quite dazed for 15 minutes afterwards."

While the professional game's concession to injury is to treat the effects rather than reduce the risks, amateur boxing, at all levels, is acutely aware of the dangers.

Contests last three rounds of two minutes, headgear is compulsory and, at all shows other than the University match, Trevor Rees, the Cambridge coach, will match the medical cards of his boxers with those of potential opponents to ensure that nobody is badly outweighed or outclassed.

"It's a big responsibility," Rees said. "I'll be apprehensive for tonight, partly because I'm always concerned for the boxers, partly because I think we can win. The difference is that I'm under no pressure to keep them in

there. No one has paid £500 for a seat. If I can see they are on a hiding, I'll pull them out. The ref usually does it first, anyway."

Rees is head gardener at Sidney Sussex, his co-trainers include a solicitor and a Japanese chef called Saito, who coached the Nepal team at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980. An unlikely trio, but each is aware that teaching the rudiments of defence is the first priority. "There is more science to it than I expected," Richard Bramley, the Cambridge heavyweight, said. "The temptation is to go in and fight, but that's not what it's about."

Bramley will discover how well he has mastered that art in his first contest, tonight. He admits that it will be a very different experience from his two University rugby matches—no team to share the nerves—but neither the fate of McClellan nor the odd comment from friends, questioning his sanity, has dampened his enthusiasm for the fray.

"I've learnt all these skills and I want to put them into practice," he

said. "That's why I came down here. The McClellan fight came at a bad time, I suppose, but I knew someone who died playing rugby and I never contemplated giving that up."

If there is a top Cambridge boxer, he is Nick Lois, a Greek Cypriot—an engineering student, a southpaw with quick hands and a sharp left hook.

Rees believes that he could challenge for a regional title if he wanted, maybe go on to be a professional, but Lois is not interested in taking his career further.

"I wouldn't want to do it, not because I might be afraid, but because pro boxing is all about attack and aggression," he said. "There is not enough defence. If someone tried to fight like McClellan in this sort of boxing, they would lose."

He tried once and suffered his worst defeat in seven bouts. "I had a load of friends cheering me on and I knocked this guy down twice, then lost concentration and left myself open," he said. "I was knocked down twice. It was stupid."

How much does he worry about getting hurt? "I always worry, but not so much this time because I know the standard," he said. "You get scared if you know you're not ready. I know I'm ready, so I'm looking forward to it. Once you're in the ring, you have no choice anyway."

## McLaren play down late changes

Oliver Holt finds a Formula One team having to make swift adjustments to cockpit design

The McLaren Formula One team last night laughed off suggestions that it might be about to embark on a radical and highly-expensive redesign of its new car to ensure that Nigel Mansell is sitting comfortably when the grand prix season begins in Brazil in 17 days' time.

Mika Hakkinen, Mansell's team-mate, implied earlier this week that the poor times recorded by the team in testing in Estoril, Portugal, were caused by the discomfort that the pair had to endure in a cramped cockpit. McLaren was immediately accused of a "cockpit cock-up" that would cost millions to remedy and would ruin the beginning of its new, high-profile partnership with Mercedes, its engine suppliers.

The team did confirm yesterday that Mansell would return to the factory in Woking today to discuss the problem. However, a spokesman insisted that it was a matter of fine tuning, another seat-fitting and, perhaps, a minuscule adjustment in the position of the foot pedals.

"Problems with discomfort are all part of getting the car ready for the new season," the spokesman said. "Nigel had a very detailed and thorough seat-fitting last month and everything was OK, but you cannot recreate the situation of being buffeted in the corners or breaking hard and what that does to your body."

"Testing is designed to discover this sort of problem. It throws up other technical questions, too, but nobody seems interested in them. We may have to shave a tiny bit off the seat here or there, alter its shape slightly or move the pedals a millimetre. Either way, they will be back testing at Estoril on Monday."

Discomfort in the car has become a necessary evil for drivers forced to squeeze into small cockpits so that designers can achieve the best aerodynamic results. This season, designers have also had to cope with a new set of safety regulations which have altered the shape of the cockpit.

The sides are now higher and new head restraints have been fitted which slightly change the driver's position.

Mansell was stung by criticism that he was too heavy when he returned to Formula One at the end of last season and has lost weight since. Hakkinen is a leaner build, but has also been experiencing problems in the car. "It is like running the London Marathon with shoes that are too small," he said.

At 5ft 9in and nearly 12 stone, Mansell is one of the larger drivers in the sport as well as the oldest at 41. Yet his celebrity status may have caused the commotion on this occasion. "It is an entirely routine situation," the spokesman said. "If this was anyone other than Nigel, there would be none of this fuss."

### RADIO CHOICE

## Matters of life and death

Soundtrack: Living above the Parloar, Radio 4, 7.20pm.

This is not one for the faint-hearted. I advise you to listen to it after a meal, not before it. Either way, avoid a juicy, underdone steak. Sara Parker's inquiry is into matters of life and death. Mainly death. June recruits to their first corpses. "Everyone all right?" she asks, not without reason. She and Tony, the man in her life, live over the mortuary. From their window, the view is one of undertakers carrying bodies to the deep freeze. A neighbour's child once saw a hand dangling from a tree under a conversation. But of course, life must go on for June and Tony. *Living above the Parloar* ends with a happy event. For this relief, much thanks.

The Boston Romantics, Radio 3, 1.00pm.

It was news to me that in the 19th century Boston was spoken of as America's Athens. There was an eruption of the arts in the city, a veritable renaissance. Margaret Junger's series focuses on the music-makers, beginning today with John Knowles Paine. He made history as the first professor of music at an American university (Harvard). Paradoxically, although his compositions were heavily influenced by Bach and Beethoven, they put the Boston school on the road to a recognisably American style. We hear extracts from some of his works this afternoon, including—a soul-stirring exercise—the *Agnus Dei* from his *Mass in D*. Peter Daville

### RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00pm Clive Warren 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo: featuring Steve Wonder 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nelly Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 4.30 The Amazing Spider-Man and at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Soundbite 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

### RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm News America, incl at 2.30 the star guest interview 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Marc Blake's Winning for England 7.30 David Allen 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 British Country 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Mackinnon 3.00 Alex Lester

### RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 8.50 Film Review 10.35 Euronews 11.00 Gut Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mail, including at 12.45pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Russco on Five, including at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.30 7.35 Women on Top 8.05 Arthur Smith on the Floor Southampton University 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dea and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chesham 1.00pm Arms Race 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Marsh and Sean Bolger 10.00 Clesser the Gossip 1.00am Wild Al Kelly

### WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Futurmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Morning 7.30 Network 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Books 8.30 John Peel 9.00 News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 Our Own Correspondent 9.30 Farming 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Assignment 10.30 Quote Unquote 11.00 Newswatch 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mittagmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Faith 12.15 Multitrack 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Menon 2.45 The Learning World 3.00 News 3.15 Greenfield 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Ahead 5.00 News 5.05 Business 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newswatch 6.30 Ahead 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 On the Move 7.45 Farming 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Network UK 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newswatch 11.30 Quote Unquote 12.00 News 12.01 Assignment 1.00 Music Review 1.05 Outlook 1.30 On the Move 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newswatch 2.30 The News 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Faith 4.00 Newswatch

### CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Robert Booth 12.00 Stephen Gilbey 2.00pm The Scholario 3.00 Jamie Chick 6.00 Reports 7.00 Travel Guide 8.00 Evening Concert: Wagner (Parsifal) Journey, Götterdämmerung, Forest of Murmur, Siegfried, Mussorgsky (Night on the Bare Mountain); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D); Beethoven (Symphony No 2 in D) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am And Leon

### VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyte 11.00 Nick Robot 2.00am Janey Lee Grace

### RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: The Dreaming of the Bones, by W.B. Yeats 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: With Andrew McGinley, Benoit (Romanian Folk Dances); Mozart (Fantasia in F minor); Spohr (Cello in E, Op 32); Mendelssohn, arr W.T. Best (War March of the Priests, Athalia); 8.11 Purcell (Portico) (A selection of songs); 8.30 Poulenc (Piano Concerto)

9.00 Composers of the Week: Swedish Romantics. Wilhelm Stenhammar (Symphony in G minor, Op 34); Livin in the Struggle Garden; Fantasia No 3 in B minor, Op 11)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Peter Aaron Page, Handel (Concerto grosso in D minor, Op 3 No 5); 10.10 Artist of the Week: Steven Isserlis, cello; Boccherini (Cello Sonata No 5 in G); 10.15 Bach (Molt Lobet den Herrn); Weber (Piano Sonata No 3 in D minor); Sullivan, arr Robinson (Society Dances); Tchaikovsky (Andante cantabile, Op 11); Beethoven (Northern Ballet No 3); Tallis (Mass: Pax natus est nobis)

12.00 Ensemble: The Fibonaccis Sequence performs rarely heard chamber music (a selection of the Songs of the Aveugles)

2.00 Schools: Radio Q and A 2.05 in the News 2.25 Something to Think About: 2.40 Music Assemblies: Music Course 3 Ophus

3.00 News: The Opera: Natalia Wren introduces Tippett's fourth opera, The Ice Break

4.35 The Carrivans Play Brahms: Waltzes, Op 39, excerpts; Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Op 56

5.00 The Carrivans Play Brahms: pupils try out their compositions with the London Chamber Brass Ensemble

5.15 In Tune: Presented by Linda Ormiston. Germain (Overture: Of Thee I Sing); Vaughan Williams (Serenade to Music); Germain (An American in Paris); Verdi (Bella figlia dell'amore, Rigoletto)

7.30 BBC Singers Invitation Concert: Live from St James's Church, Piccadilly, London. Sarah Connolly, contralto; Paul Agnew, tenor; Stephen Gilbey, baritone; BBC Singers and St James's Baroque Players under Ivor Bolton. William Boyce (David's Lamentation over Saul and Jonathan); 8.20 The Devil's Grasshoppers: Jennifer Thorp explores the role of the 18th-century travelling master, 8.40 Maurice Greene (The Song of Deborah and Barak)

9.30 Music at War: Music written in the period during the Second World War

9.50 Frederica von Stade: The mezzo-soprano sings a selection of the Songs of the Aveugles

10.15 Time and Changes (I) 10.45 Night Waves: Ariel Dorfman, Chilean writer and novelist

11.30-12.30am Volcanos: Songs from Hugo Wolf's *Spanisches Liederbuch*

1.30-2.00 Night Poetry of Pauline Kuper: Poetry of Pauline Kuper for PE: City Life 2

### RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing: Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day, with the Very Rev Gilesburg Macmillan 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze 10.00-10.30 News: After Eden (FM only): A six-part drama series by Alison Leonard about a woman priest (3/6)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 Something Understood (LW only): A spiritual anthology

10.30 Women's Hour: Jenni Murray says Diane Rags, a member of the Montblanc de la Culture jury, where there is still a need for patronage of the arts

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.00 News: You and Yours: With Tansin Sigit 12.25pm Questions of Taste: Chris Kelly introduces highlights from the food-and-drink panel game (I) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Charles 1.40 The Archers (I) 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 Newy Rair of the Dog: In Lesley Davis's black comedy, Brenda Blethyn plays Amy, a harassed housewife and mother of seven whose husband finds himself in the arms of their generous next-door neighbour. With David Horowitz and Kate Bulfinch (I) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Brief, with Daire Brehan and guests

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen explores the relationship between author and director during the staging of new plays

4.45 Short Story: Henry West. Sunny Ormrod reads Clive Collins's story

5.00 Weather: Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Paradise Lost in Space: David Hely stars in Colin Swales's comic space-age comedy as a failed hijacker and a lunar timepiece salesman stranded on a planet of friendly aliens

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Soundtrack: See Choice 8.00 Analysis: John Bull's Schoolboys. Melania Phillips looks at English education

8.45 Stranger than Fiction: Tim Parks, a writer of black comedies, starts a weekly satirical series for Lent in which a leading novelist considers the Gospel accounts of the trial and death of Jesus

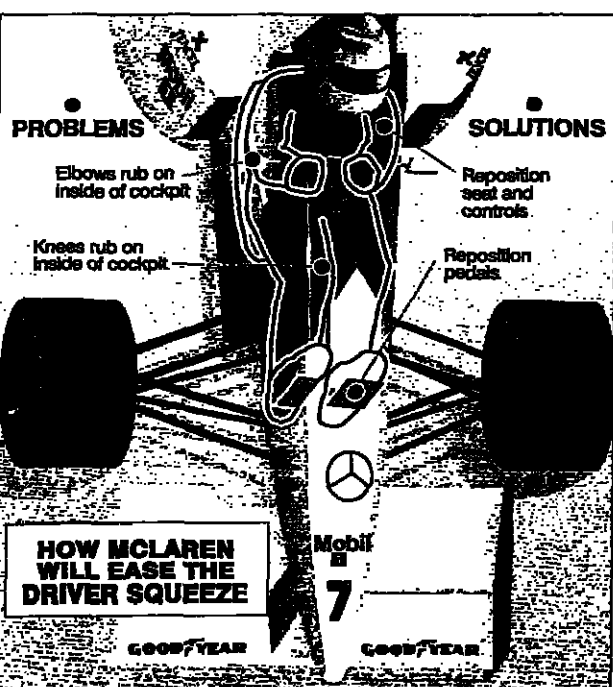
9.30 Does He Take Sugar? 9.30 Kaleidoscope (I) 9.55 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Break at Bedtime: Archy and Mihilabell, by Don Marcus (4/6)

11.30-12.00 Postcard from Götting (FM only): Joe Quenan presents more insiders' views of the week's stories in America

11.30-12.00 News (LW only) 12.00-12.45am News and 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping 12.45 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 89-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 1984-1915/1515m. FM 62-64.6. LW 108. RADIO 5: 630-642/433m; 90-94/930m. LONDON RADIO: 1152-1162/515m. FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548-1612/194m. FM 95.8. GLR: FM 94.9. WORLD SERVICE: MW 640-644/650m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100.12. VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1088, 1059-112. Listings compiled by Linda Galloway and Sarah Harding





# Return of a gong show in a class of its own

John Major's new classless honours system ought to have done for *Hearts of Gold* (BBC1). Now that decades of selfless dedication to things such as road-crossing and rural post offices are rewarded with the same gongs handed out to those who have shamelessly dedicated decades to political crawling, there should be no need for a programme that goes round tying a little blue ribbon with a gold heart on to "unsung heroes" everywhere.

But there is, it appears. All over the country unsung heroes have emerged from dark and dangerous places to say: "You can stick your MBE, Mr Major. What we want is a Heart of Gold and we want Esther Rantzen to pin it on us." Yes, she's back. Making her entrance again (cue studio applause) with her usual flair (an Armani-ish russet creation that embraced — quite successfully — the new, "difficult" on-the-knee

hemline). Sure of her lines ("Hello — and welcome to a new series of *Hearts of Gold*") no one is there (some hope). Send in the unsung heroes.

"No one is safe from us on this show," promised Esther, with that well-practised, threatening twinkle. She was right. Anyone who has surprisingly found themselves roped into a BBC documentary in the last few months and has ever done a good turn in their life should be afraid — very afraid. For this is Esther's favourite line: "Do you remember that documentary you made about hill-walking/inner-city children/falling over in the street?" Having been struck dumb — presumably by the uncanny resemblance of Esther's co-conspirator, Mickey Hutton, to the young Bob Monkhouse — our unsung, and now mute, hero nods. "Well, actually it was for *Hearts of Gold*." Cue open-mouthed incredulity, followed by sheepish grin.

followed by affectionate threat to the nearest and dearest who has by now mysteriously materialised next to them on the sofa.

Familiar, formulaic and addictive. Good works have a cumulative effect on the human brain. You start off in scoffing mode (the Rantzen response, as psychiatrists call it) but after 50 minutes of unrelenting goodness you're dabbling gently at your eyes and resolving to be nicer to children, animals and people who fall off mountains.

Cleverly, the programme mixes genuine heroism (the nurse working with Romanian orphans suffering from AIDS, the naval enthusiast who's been running the sea cadets in Lambeth for 40 years) with ordinary people who have simply done the right thing. After all, if you're walking in Snowdonia, and your companion falls 500 feet down the mountain,

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

you don't shout: "Sorry Dave, but I'm dying for a pint." "Bye," you go and get help. Such episodes could, and to some extent do, belittle the more remarkable feats of human endeavour, but they make the programme more accessible. Nearly everyone has a similar tale to tell.

Nevertheless, the programme still has a self-righteous air of over-rehearsed smugness that makes

one long for something to go wrong. "Have you heard of a programme called *Hearts of Gold*?" asks Carol Smilie brightly and often. If only someone would say no. "Who is your favourite showjumper?" asked the treacherous Esther. "John Whitaker," came the reply. "Damn, we booked Harvey Smith." No, that didn't happen either.

While BBC1 was being engulfed in good works, Channel 4 was in distinct danger of being swamped in saccharine. Nesta Wynn Ellis, the Prime Minister's extraordinary biographer, was stuck in the Out of Order lift with that queen of journalistic spleen, Nina Myskova. The unlikely subject for debate was the sexiness, or otherwise, of John Major. The problem was that Wynn Ellis had chosen to meet Myskova's bile with a sipping smile.

Of course, the argument could have been over a lot sooner had

Wynn Ellis simply lent forward and smothered Myskova with the sort of cleavage that could get her arrested for carrying an offensive weapon. I feared for the brave cameraman providing overhead shots of the two combatants — one slip and the Wonderbra would claim its first fatality.

Looking at your outfit, I don't think you're claustrophobic," said Myskova. It was her best shot. All her others were smothered by Wynn Ellis's repeated protests that Major wasn't at all dull in private. "He swamps you with charm," she twittered. "It's devastating."

Come on, protested Myskova for the umpteenth time. No really, replied Wynn Ellis, "in a MORI poll, 87 per cent of women thought John Major was sexy." Actually, her mid-Atlantic accent made it sound more like a Morag poll. But I was still not convinced. Surely 87 per

cent of Morags have better taste. Finally, and they don't come much more finally than a programme that starts at midnight, let us turn to the Stand-Up Show (BBC1). Why is a programme so funny put on so late? True, some of Donna Macphail's act last night was not the sort of thing you want creeping up on you directly after the watershed, but the programme — with three different comics each week — looks tailor-made for one of the later slots in BBC2's Friday night battle with Channel 4.

Compare Barry Cryer bridges the gap between establishment comedy and the alternative circuit with considerable charm — "the only real difference between older comics and younger comics is that the younger comics don't play golf" — and a very good but silent impersonation of the Queen. But after 100 minutes in the company of Des Lynam and *Sportsnight*, not a lot of people will know that.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (38712) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (55387170)
- 9.00am Killy: Studio talkshow (s) (5448441)
- 10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7833422) 10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days. Michelle and Sharon's friendship is under strain. (8840262)
- 10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Family news magazine (s) (7152489)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1891880) 12.05pm Pobble Mill (7467793) 12.55 Regional News (Ceefax) and weather (15007199)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (50462)
- 1.30 Neighbours. Michael and Dani cherish their last minutes together (Ceefax) (s) (77744373) 1.50 Going for Gold. Quiz show with Henry Kelly (s) (7775489)
- 2.15 FILM: Where the Lilies Bloom (1974) with Julie Gholson and Harry Dean Stanton. Four siblings try to keep their father's death a secret (404040)
- 3.50 Jackanory: Whose Story is it Anyway? (s) (8024267) 4.00 Robinson Sucroe. Love at First Kite (Ceefax) (9251064) 4.25 Animal Hospital (s) (4405248) 4.35 Mud (Ceefax) (s) (1738083)
- 5.00 Newsround (8006151)
- 5.10 Blue Peter. The DIY children's show (Ceefax) (s) (8087847)
- 5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (451828) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster (451828) 6.30 Neighbours (335) (Ceefax) (s) (10.10 Spotlight (326915) 10.40 Question Time (261712) 11.40 Cagney and Lacey (333731) 12.30 FILM: Roadhouse 66 (1984) (89042)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (593)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (335)
- 7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (8996)
- 7.30 EastEnders. Michelle and Arthur argue over Geoff's proposal. (Ceefax) (s) (847)
- 8.00 Animal Hospital. Rolf Harris and Steve Knight at the 24-hour RSPCA Harrowdown Hospital for Sick Pets. (Ceefax) (s) (5044)
- 8.30 Crown Prosecutor. Marty has a tough time. (Ceefax) (s) (4151)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8199)
- 9.30 Linda Robson and Pauline Quirke (9.30pm)
- 10.00 Question Time. David Dimbleby and guests answer questions in Leicester (Ceefax) (562793) Wales: The State Man's Too Strong (s) (326915) 10.40 Question Time (Ceefax) (261712) 11.40 Cagney and Lacey (835731) 12.25am FILM: When He's Not a Stranger (1984/497) 1.55 News, weather (8047774)
- 11.10 Cagney and Lacey: Friendly Smoke. (Ceefax) (s) (129422)
- 12.00 P.S. When He's Not a Stranger (1989). A college student has her life shattered when she is raped by a campus colleague (90229)
- 1.30am Weather (6782039)

## BBC2

- 6.20 Open University Biology (7314118) 6.45 Caring for Data (2160002) 7.10 Linkage. Mechanisms (5052048) 7.35 Earthquakes (5053873)
- 8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (Signed) (5727083) 8.15 Westminster On-Line with Andrew Neil (s) (4215008) 9.00 Seven One TV (5510828) 9.20 Mathsphor (s) (5590064) 9.40 You and Me (9292354) 9.45 Come Outside (s) (5671809) 10.00 Playdays (s) (8851731) 10.25 Ghostwriter (s) (8861118) Northern Ireland: History 10.55 Weather: Homes across Europe (Ceefax) (s) (4900880) 11.10 Health 2 (s) (8332489) 11.30 Landmarks (Ceefax) (s) (8321420) 11.50 Mad About Music (s) (4160199) 12.10pm Short Circuit (5110538)
- 12.30 Working Lunch. Business news (50248) 1.00 Lifeschool (s) (5706309) 1.25 History File (87750151) 1.45 Storytime (25330199) 2.00 Sport and Tidyup (s) (85898199) 2.05 Puppydog Tales (s) (85971170)
- 2.10 Next with Marti Caine (s) (74713647) 2.35 From the Edge (Ceefax) (7115793)
- 3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by Westminster with Nick Ross (Ceefax) (433915)
- 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (8022809) 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (248) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (71458)
- 5.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show: The Middle Class Drug Problem (s) (701469)
- 5.40 The World Figure Skating Championships. From Birmingham (591828)
- 6.15 Quantum Leap. Sam has to prevent the murder of a priest. (Ceefax) (s) (108267)
- 6.50 Waiting for God (Ceefax) (s) (4538)
- 7.30 First Sight: Dear Mrs Bottomley Wales: First Sight Northern Ireland: Social Dist. Christin (489) 7.35 County Times (s)
- 8.00 Life with Fred (Ceefax) (s) (3285) Northern Ireland: Gaelic (s)
- 8.30 Top Gear (Ceefax) (s) (2793)
- 9.00 The Glam Metal Detectives. More comic sketches. (Ceefax) (s) (9441)
- 9.30 The World Figure Skating Championships. From Birmingham (29183)
- 10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (513712)
- 11.15 Late Review (s) (475248) 11.55 Weatherview (824880) 12.00 Open View (5383316) 12.05am The Chemistry of Survival (4443300) 12.30 The Record (s) (3925942) Ends at 1.00
- 4.30 BBC Select: Developing Family Library (66590) followed by Strathelyte TV — Putting You in the Picture (39959) 5.30 RCN Nursing Update (46364)
- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ codes. These allow you to programme your video recorder (VCR) to record a programme. For more information on the VideoPlus+ system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 47. For more information on the VideoPlus+ system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 47. For more information on the VideoPlus+ system, see the Video PlusCodes section on page 47.

## CHOICE



Fateful meeting for Havers, Ward (ITV, 9.00pm)

Chiller  
ITV, 9.00pm

Hardly have the final credits rolled on BBC1's *Ghosts* than the rival channel comes up with its tales of the supernatural. Five single dramas kick off with *Prophecy*, a story by Peter James in which a group of students at a boarding school are mysteriously killed (Sophie Ward), hold a séance. It turns out to be a bad idea since over the years most of them suffer premature deaths. The explanation seems to lie in the family of Oliver (Nigel Havers), whose ancestors include a 16th-century satanist murdered by Cromwell's troops. It only remains for the script to bring Francis and Oliver together. Thanks to one of the many extraordinary coincidences on which the story relies, a meeting is duly contrived. Be prepared for twists and shocks.

Secret Lives: Mountbatten  
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Lord Louis Mountbatten, according to this unflattering profile, worked tirelessly to ensure that history gave him a favourable verdict. He even masterminded the details of his own state funeral, and the manipulation continued from beyond the grave. Stripping away the veneer, the programme highlights his accident-prone naval career, his culpability for the disastrous D-Day raid and the tragic results of his determination to hurry through Indian independence. His unhappy marriage is also laid bare. Contributors include Mountbatten's daughters, his official biographer, Philip Ziegler, and a recent debunker, Andrew Roberts. Ziegler has the final word: "Despite everything, however, Mountbatten was a great man."

Jobs for the Girls  
BBC1, 9.30pm

Non-anglers who think that the sport consists of long hours on river banks waiting for something to happen will find their prejudices shattered as Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson try to get hooked on fishing. They have six weeks in which to become good enough to lead opposing teams in a freshwater and deep-sea match off the Isle of Wight. Jokes centre on the cold and the damp, on not being able to break off to spend a penny and particularly moist catches. Luckily, the show's budget stretches to a visit to Florida, where, in contrast to a perpetually gloomy England, the sun never fails to shine. Other diversions include a visit to trout farmer (and singer) Roger Daltrey. The maggots are the biggest and creepiest you are likely to see.

## CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (7808977)
- 9.25 Chain Letters (s) (3241809) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8838880)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place. Members of a studio audience discuss a topical issue. With John Stapleton (s) (7963460)
- 10.35 This Morning (26520731) 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1697064)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2178847)
- 12.55 Emmerdale (s). (Teletext) (2151538) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (5708354)
- 1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz discusses the issue of gay parenting. (Ceefax) (s) (35938847) 2.25 A Country Practice (s) (74705828)
- 2.50 Gardeners' Diary. John Ravenscroft plants gladioli while Anthony Hearn spring-prunes shrubs (7216002) 3.50 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8045441) 3.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8044712)
- 3.30 The Riddlers (s) (2119731) 3.40 Wizardia (s) (8013151) 3.50 Rupert (s) (2833557) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (s) (646538) 4.40 Fun House with Pat Sharp. (Teletext) (s) (8008225)
- 5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (8221354)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (785422)
- 5.55 Your Show (842828)
- 6.00 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (151)
- 6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (731)
- 7.00 Emmerdale. Vic has trouble coping with Seth's illicit hooch. (Teletext) (1064)
- 7.30 3-D presented by Julia Somerville. This week's programme takes a look at the British tradition of invention and why inventors are not taken seriously. Plus, the dangers of bull bars, a car fashion accessory (s) (915)
- 8.00 The Bill. Flora and Fauna. Hollie's green fingers cause havoc. (Teletext) (3192)
- 8.30 The Trouble with Mr Bean starring Rowan Atkinson (s) (9847)
- 9.00 Chiller: Prophecy (Teletext) (s) (8083)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (39267)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (276809)
- 10.40 Revelations (s) (156888)
- 11.10 Big City (33170)
- 11.40 The Powers That Be. The life and times of an American senator and his family on Capitol Hill (162422)
- 12.15am The Little Picture Show (s) (419300)
- 1.15 The Beat (s) (415584)
- 2.15 The Album Show (s) (s) (6887768)
- 3.10 America's Top Ten (s) (s) (6818562)
- 3.35 Sport AM (s) (s) (519722)
- 4.30 Videofashion (s) (80318)
- 5.00 Vanessa (s) (s) (53584)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (98010). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Sandokan (s) (2711118)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21373)
- 9.00 You Set Your Life (s) (s) (49644)
- 9.30 Schools' Middle English (5681422) 9.45 The New Living Body (5555731) 10.05 Scientific Eye (8945170) 10.27 Cool Zone Republic (3870785) 10.15 (8180506) 10.50 Your World (832267) 11.00 History in Action (8921373) 11.20 Earth — The Home Planet (8533335) 11.40 The German Programme (4158083)
- 12.00 House To House. Political magazine chaired by Maya Even (28880) 12.30 Sesame Street (98151)
- 1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz. Animated adventures (s) (35911170)
- 1.55 Spacebourne. Images of space provided by NASA (7758118)
- 2.15 FILM: Beyond the Forest (1949, b/w) starring Bette Davis, Joseph Cotten and David Brian. Small-town America melodrama about a history doctor's wife. Directed by King Vidor (498118)
- 3.55 From the Horse Mouth. The bookmaker. Narrated by John Hurt (s) (5782267)
- 4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (828)
- 5.00 Ricki Lake. A discussion on the different ways men and women see things. (Teletext) (s) (8165557) 5.50 Terrytoons (807151)
- 6.00 The Cosby Show. American domestic comedy (s). (Teletext) (793)
- 6.30 Saved By the Bell. Comedy. (Teletext) (373)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (86996)
- 7.50 The Slot. Writers' video soapbox (513828)
- 8.00 Alien Nations. (Teletext) (s) (8354)
- 8.30 The Pulse. The last in the medical magazine series, presented by Shahnaz Pakravan. (Teletext) (s) (7489)
- 9.00 Secret Lives: Mountbatten. (Teletext) (s) (4825)
- 10.00 Hearts and Minds. The final episode of the school drama serial starring Christopher Eccleston. (Teletext) (s) (8321847)
- 11.05 Adult Op-Ed. The guests are women who were abused and made pregnant by their fathers. (Teletext) (s) (155847)
- 11.55 The Obituary Show. A spoof celebratory obituary celebrating the life and career of Norman Wisdom (s) (226064)
- 12.25am Dispatches (s). (Teletext) (8885768)
- 1.15 American Patchwork: Appalachian Journey. The first of a two-part programme about the songs and stories of America, presented by Alan Lomax (s) (7016571)
- 2.30 Puttin' On the Ritz. Animation based on the Fred Astaire song (333118)
- 2.35 FILM: The Merchant of Venice (1943, b/w) starring Jack Benny as a small-town lawyer who receives a rough deal from his prospective father-in-law. Directed by Sidney Lanfield (402126). Ends at 3.40

## VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
- As London except: 1.55 The Young Doctors (7778828) 2.55-3.30 Take the High Road (7216002) 3.30-4.30 Angles News and Weather (044712) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2221354) 6.25-7.00 Angles News (88828) 7.00-7.40 Cover Story (156889) 11.10 Side Effects (1377889) 12.00am Married with Children (447128) 12.30 Dragon Riders (24107) 2.30 The Best (894967) 3.25 Cinema. Cinema. Cinema. (881807) 3.50 Quiz Night (8227922) 4.15-5.00 Donahue (883478)
- CENTRAL**
- As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (7778828) 2.55-3.30 Take the High Road (7216002) 3.30-4.30 Angles News (88828) 7.00-7.40 Cover Story (156889) 11.10 Side Effects (1377889) 12.00am Married with Children (447128) 12.30 Dragon Riders (24107) 2.30 The Best (894967) 3.25 Cinema. Cinema. Cinema. (881807) 3.50 Quiz Night (8227922) 4.15-5.00 Donahue (883478)
- GRANADA**
- As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (2151538) 1.25 Home and Away (877857) 1.50 Vanessa (3290848) 2.30 The Man In the Hat (7477809) 2.55-3.30 Angles News and Weather (044712) 5.10-5.40 Angles News (88828) 7.00-7.40 Cover Story (156889) 11.10 Side Effects (1377889) 12.00am Married with Children (447128) 12.30 Dragon Riders (24107) 2.30 The Best (894967) 3.25 Cinema. Cinema. Cinema. (881807) 3.50 Quiz Night (8227922) 4.15-5.00 Donahue (883478)
- IRISH WEST**
- As London except: 2.55 Gardening Time (7778828) 3.30-4.30 Angles News (88828) 7.00-7.40 Cover Story (156889) 11.10 Side Effects (1377889) 12.00am Married with Children (447128) 12.30 Dragon Riders (24107) 2.30 The Best (894967) 3.25 Cinema. Cinema. Cinema. (881807) 3.50 Quiz Night (8227922) 4.15-5.00 Donahue (883478)
- IRISH WALES**
- As Irish except: 5.30-7.00 Wales Today (7778828) 7.30-8.00 Wales Today (7778828) 8.30-9.00 Wales Today (7778828) 9.30-10.00 Wales Today (7778828) 10.30-11.00 Wales Today (7778828) 11.30-12.00 Wales Today (7778828) 12.30-1.00 Wales Today (7778828) 1.30-2.00 Wales Today (7778828) 2.30-3.00 Wales Today (7778828) 3.30-4.00 Wales Today (7778828) 4.30-5.00 Wales Today (7778828) 5.30-6.00 Wales Today (7778828) 6.30-7.00 Wales Today (7778828) 7.30-8.00 Wales Today (7778828) 8.30-9.00 Wales Today (7778828) 9.30-10.00 Wales Today (7778828) 10.30-11.00 Wales Today (7778828) 11.30-12.00 Wales Today (7778828) 12.30-1.00 Wales Today (7778828) 1.30-2.00 Wales Today (7778828) 2.30-3.00 Wales Today (7778828) 3.30-4.00 Wales Today (7778828) 4.30-5.00 Wales Today (7778828) 5.30-6.00 Wales Today (7778828) 6.30-7.00 Wales Today (7778828) 7.30-8.00 Wales Today (7778828) 8.30-9.00 Wales Today (7778828) 9.30-10.00 Wales Today (7778828) 10.30-11.00 Wales Today (7778828) 11.30-12.00 Wales Today (7778828) 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